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EDITORIAL NOTICE:—The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. He must also decline to enter into correspondence with writers of MSS. sent in and not acknowledged. It is preferred that MSS. should be typewritten.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

"De Germaniâ semper aliquid novi." The Germans manage to keep us in the same state of irritated suspense as the Carthaginians did the Romans. Despite of the "alarms and excursions," which are continually reported from Berlin and Weimar, the peace will probably be signed in a few days. We hardly require the assurance of the German militarist remnant that they will break the peace as soon as they can. We know that, and it is the justification for the stringency of the military and naval conditions. It is the economic and financial conditions of the peace that we question as impossible of fulfilment. The Germans complain that it is a "peace of hatred and revenge." But every peace made with them is marked so; the peace of 1871 was the cause of the present war. That is because they wage war, not like gentlemen and soldiers, but like wild beasts. Had the Germans conducted the war decently, America would probably not have come in, and a very different peace would have been made.

And what about the trial of the ex-Kaiser? As we have frequently pointed out, there is no State which, according to international law, can demand his extradition, first, because he is not the subject of any State, and secondly, because he has not committed any extraditable offence. We feel pretty sure that the countrymen of Grotius will refuse to surrender a political refugee: and what then? Are the Allies to force Holland to break international law, as embodied in treaties? This would be a pretty beginning for the reign of right over might! The trial of William before Europe for crimes far greater than any scheduled in treaties of extradition would have a very salutary moral effect. And if the Dutch Government, accepting this view, choose to give up the Kaiser, well and good. But we cannot force them to do so.

The emotional Gauls have welcomed the acceptance of the treaty with tears and laughter, and flags and feastings and vivas. But there is hardly a shout left in England. The consummation has been postponed and postponed, and disappointments about punishment and indemnities have followed fast upon one another. The Prime Minister is chiefly to blame for this, because he excited, instead of damping down, impossible expectations. Mr.

Lloyd George has the defects of his qualities, and one of his greatest faults is that he cannot, or will not, prepare the words of a speech, no matter how important the occasion. He will not even read the notes prepared for him by others, but very often takes a sound sleep before going to a meeting, at which he speaks like an inspired preacher. This is, of course, a great danger.

Other reasons against national enthusiasm at the moment are the bitter class warfare that is being sedulously fomented by the Smillies and other revolutionaries, and the real grievances of the demobilised men, who find their places occupied by women. Immediately after the General Election we met one or two prominent Conservatives, who had been strenuous advocates of female enfranchisement. "Ha, ha! you see we were right about the women: they are sound Conservatives!" Let him laugh who laughs last. The enfranchisement of 8,000,000 women (the female now outnumber the male voters, we believe) is going to have results little dreamt of in the philosophy of the Lowthers and the Longs. No Government now would dare to insist on the women giving up their places to the men who have fought, as they ought to do; no member of Parliament would dare to vote for any such legislation. The women wear the breeches now, and we are a press-and-petticoat-ridden nation.

The scuttling by their crews of the German ships interned at Scapa Flow, so indignantly denounced, strikes us as the only plucky and justifiable thing the Germans have done in the war. It is exactly what British sailors would have done had their ships been interned in German ports. The scuttling crews risked their lives in the determination that the enemy should not have their ships, and they tried to escape, both of which are quite justifiable acts in war, for peace had not yet been signed. The blame, if blame there be, rests with the British naval command, for not guarding their prize more strictly. The loss is really a negligible factor in the matter, for the ships were of no use to us; and the authorities were at their wits' end to know what to do with them. Some people ask, why were the ships not used to transport Canadian and Australian soldiers to their homes? Ships of war are not constructed for carrying passengers or cargo. Every inch of space not occupied by the crew is constructed for guns, munitions, and coal.

Mr. Long, in answer to questions about Scapa Flow, propounded the astonishing doctrine that as the German ships were interned, and not surrendered, the British Admiralty was not responsible for their custody, which had to be left to the Germans themselves! According to this, the War Office had no responsibility for the custody of interned persons, and had no right to place (as was very properly done) sentries to guard the Alexandra Palace and other internment camps throughout the country. We cannot see why there should be one law for the sea and another for the land; and we have never before heard of enemies being left to guard themselves. The only difference we know of between an interned person and a prisoner of war, is that the interned must be released on the conclusion of war, while the prisoner of war may be, and generally is, the subject of exchange by agreement or treaty. The sinking of the ships is, as we said, of no consequence: but don't let the Admiralty be defended by nonsense.

Mr. Asquith did not do himself justice at Leeds last week, for he can afford to be candid in controversy, as only big men can. We are no more enamoured of the protectionist theory than he is; but we see that tariffs depend on other things than the need of the consumer or the greed of the producer. The war has changed England's position from that of creditor to that of debtor, and the business of a debtor nation is to keep down imports. We want to sell to, not to buy from, America; and it is for that reason that the duties on clocks and watches, so ridiculous from a preferential point of view (for Canada does not make them), become expedient on the ground of exchange. The same argument applies to American motors, and in a less degree to Chinese and Dutch teas. Messrs. Chamberlain and Law were doubtless bent on preference: but we might give the Prime Minister and the great financial officials credit for deeper and wider views.

Sir Auckland Geddes made a sensible and effective reply to the speeches directed at the fiscal policy of the Government. Britain stands, he said, between a ruined Europe and a flourishing America; between a group of debtors and one too powerful creditor. The fiscal policy of England, France and Italy, must be determined by considerations of exchange, rather than by those of protection or free trade. It is the duty of Government to prevent the importation of useless articles of luxury, and to nurse the export trade. Sir Auckland Geddes pointed out, in another place, earlier in the week, that, being as poor as church mice, we were all living like millionaires. Not all of us, Sir Auckland: only those who are burning the money they have made out of the blood and tears of the world.

Some effective protest will, we hope, be made in Parliament against the Secretary of State for War becoming a contributor to the Press. It is not only that this is what the French call *une concurrence indigne* with professional journalists, but it is something like a breach of trust. The nation pays Mr. Winston Churchill £5,000 a year, and gives him salutations in the market-place and a high place at feasts: but he must remember the penalties of place, dignity and reserve. How can Mr. Churchill enforce the strict rule about writing for the papers against the officers of the Army, when he is doing the same thing himself? A Secretary of State must reserve his brains and information for the Cabinet and Parliament. The only special value his articles can have for a newspaper or magazine is the inner knowledge derived from his position, which he must not carry to market.

Sir Maurice de Bunsen, having retired from the Diplomatic Service under the rule of superannuation, is appearing as a director of City Companies. Sir Maurice is an amiable and accomplished diplomatist; but it is a little comical to observe that when a man is superannuated from the Colonial, diplomatic and Home Civil Service, he betakes himself to the City,

where he is never thought too old to manage complicated business of which he has no experience. Very often no harm is done, as the director is frequently a mere machine-minder. But sometimes the results are tragical, as in the cases of the late Lord Dufferin and Sir Edward Thornton. It is perhaps not generally known that the prize guinea-pig is of the feminine gender, being the young Lady Rhondda (formerly Lady Mackworth) who was made by her father the directress of thirty-seven companies.

We sometimes hear and frequently read (in newspapers of the baser kind) some rather coarse abuse of Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co. The prejudice is not altogether unnatural, and the personality of the Commissioner of Works does little to diminish it. But we recommend those, who feel inclined to join in this abuse, to read the report of the last meeting of the Brunner Mond shareholders. They will there learn that, but for this firm, the country would have been in a particularly dangerous hole for the want of high explosives. Synthetic phenol, made from benzol, not from coal-tar, and ammonium nitrate, were absolutely essential in large quantities, and by Brunner Mond, under the direction of Lord Moulton, they were produced. "In all we had nine different plants," said Mr. Roscoe Brunner, "under our direct control, or under the management of our skilled chemists, with a joint productive capacity of more than 5,000 tons a week of high explosive material." Nobody but Brunner Mond could have rendered these services to the nation.

Mr. D'Eyncourt has very properly decided that a taxi-driver is not legally entitled to turn a fare out, or to refuse to take him, because he (the driver) is engaged to deliver up his cab to another driver at a certain hour. That is the excuse they all make, when they don't think a fare is "good enough." But the magistrate pointed out that such an engagement is contrary to the terms of their license, which is to "ply for hire." The public are much indebted to Mr. Harold Boulton for taking the trouble to bring this taxi-driver before the Court. The taxi-drivers are spoiled by the war-crowds now in London, who can't burn their money fast enough.

The ablest summing-up of the position of organised Labour in face of the Government is Sir Lynden Macassey's article in *The Sunday Times*. If the coal mines are nationalised, all the other important industries must immediately follow suit, because the other Trade Unions could never allow the miners to have a monopoly of squeezing the Government. The Trade Union leaders see that, and say it. But nationalisation is only a step to Syndicalisation. All trades in the hands of Government would speedily have every ounce of profit squeezed out of them by strikes, impossible wages, and wholesale slacking. Then the Syndicalists would advance, and insist on these ruined industries being handed over to trade unions, or groups of workmen, who, to tickle the taste of the idealists, would probably be called "guilds."

The first and most striking thing to be remembered in the four Reports on the Coal Trade is that three of His Majesty's Commissioners, representing or claiming to represent the class of miners, do plainly recommend that some 4,000 of their fellow-citizens shall be robbed. The rents (stupidly called royalties), paid to the owners of lands from which coal is being extracted belong to them by the same right and title as their chairs and tables, clocks and pictures, coats and tobacco-pouches, belong to Messrs. Smillie, Hodges, and Herbert Smith, that is to say, by the right and title of possession in a civilised country. Luckily, thieves invariably betray themselves by their stupidity: and when these gentry recommend that "a compassionate allowance" shall be given to small royalty owners, who may be deprived of the means of subsistence, they "give themselves away." And these men claim to rule England!

Lord Morley once said that the test of an educated man was his knowing when a thing was proved and when it wasn't. Judged by this standard, all the members of the Commission, except Sir Arthur Duckham, must be classed as uneducated, for there is no apparent connection between the evidence and their reports, or even between their major premisses and their logical conclusions. Mr. Justice Sankey, who has been trained to argue, commits himself to this astounding syllogism: most coal-owners are reasonable; some coal owners are unreasonable; therefore all coal owners must be abolished! Three of the four reports are based on a gigantic *petitio principii*, or begging of the question to be proved, namely, that State ownership is likely to be more efficient than private ownership in preventing strikes and increasing output. All the evidence that was based on figures and experience, not on theory, proved the reverse.

Mr. Justice Sankey says in his solitary report: "the success of the industry, whether under private or State ownership, depends upon productivity, and every one doing his best. The alarming fall in the output has convinced me that at present every one is not doing his best." A few lines lower down, he says, quite inconsequently: "I make this report (i.e., in favour of nationalisation) because I believe that the workers at present employed can and will maintain an output of 250,000,000 tons a year at least, which was the figure adopted in the interim Report of March 20th last presented by me and my three colleagues. I rely upon the honour of the men's leaders and the men and of all others concerned to achieve this result." The honour of Messrs. Smillie & Co. and their men? Like Falstaff's tailor, "I like not the security."

Poor, distraught, simple, judge! He made a report in March, he and three of his equally simple colleagues, in which he based his calculations on 250,000,000 tons of coal per annum: but unfortunately he accompanied his arithmetic by a large increase of wages, and behold! instantly, as if by magic, the output fell, and all his calculations with them. The three robbers, Messrs. Smillie, Hodges and Smith, with their jackals, Messrs. Webb and Money, are a little dashed by this—it is so sudden—but only a little dashed, for, of course, it is all a plot on the part of the owners, which must be enquired into at once. There are no tubs and no wagons, and this is a devilish conspiracy of the capitalists. Inquire by all means, Royal and loyal Commissions: but you had better be quick about it, for the country is fast drifting to ruin.

Mr. Justice Sankey admits, explicitly, that State management of industries during the war has been a failure. But that is because Civil Servants have not been trained to run industrial concerns. It would be quite easy, says the judge, to train a class of Civil Servants to manage industries and joint stock companies. Possibly it would—in time. It has taken us about seventy years to train the present Civil Service (the most competent in the world), dating from the middle of last century, when admission by open competition was started. To train a new class of commercial Civil Servants would certainly take many years: and what is to become of the Coal Trade in the meantime? Do the Commissioners think that the present managers and company directors will remain as schoolmasters to their successors? You cannot experiment upon the Coal Trade; to disprove these wild Socialist theories will cost us our financial and commercial existence.

To make the matter clear to those who have not studied it closely, it should be explained that the royalty owners are those who own lands in which there is coal, but who do not themselves sink shafts and work them. The landowner grants a mining lease to a company or individual, who finds the capital and the technical skill to sink shafts and manage collieries, on the terms that the coal belongs to the company, called the colliery owner, and that a rent, or royalty, of so many pence per ton of coal won is paid to the landowner. It is a business arrangement very analogous to that by which

a landowner grants a building lease on urban property. The builder finds the capital and skill to put up the houses, and pays a small ground-rent, with a reversion at the end of a long term, to the owner of the land. Mining rents or royalties, like ground-rents, are sold in the market as investments, and bequeathed by will.

The main reason why the Commissioners recommend that the State should buy out both colliery owners and royalty owners is that certain wicked and designing men have stirred up so much envy, hatred and malice against the owners of all property, but particularly against the owners of collieries and mining rents, that there can be no peace unless and until the owners cease to exist. That is a discreditable reason, but unfortunately it is true. The second reason is that the colliery companies have mismanaged the coal trade, which the State will manage better. That is untrue, and is disproved by the evidence. All the Commissioners, except the three robbers, recommend that the owners of mining rents and of collieries shall be bought out by the issue of State bonds, the interest of which shall be a charge on the properties. How long will miners allow the interest to be paid? As soon as the coal trade is nationalised the miners will discover that they are working to pay interest to idlers, blood-sucking capitalists, and so forth.

The question is, can the very technical and complicated business of managing groups of coal-mines be successfully conducted by a series of debating societies? That is what Judge Sankey proposes. There is to be for each of fourteen mining areas a local mining council, over which there is to be a district mining council, over which there is to be a National Mining Council, over which there is to be the Minister of Mines, with a department at Whitehall, and a seat in Parliament. Here we have the creation of a gigantic new bureaucracy, all of them with salaries, and all of them disputing, writing, and tossing the responsibility from one to the other, until it reaches the Minister of Mines, who is subject to the fluctuations and intrigues of the House of Commons. Salaries are the alpha of this Report, and votes are its omega. It is the scheme of panic-struck politicians, not of business men.

Where is all this to end? It cannot go on, we mean, this deadlock of industry, in which the community is threatened with literal ruin, with starvation, by a few bands of violent and unruly men. The remedy lies in the hands of the community: will they combine and support the Government in fighting, if necessary with arms, these blackmailers and anarchists? The time seems rapidly ripening for a Dictator. Julius Cæsar, Cromwell, and Bonaparte, each saw with the eagle glance of genius, that the disputes of the society in which he was born, could be settled in one way only, by a thorough and intense cudgelling. Julius got possession of the cudgel by the command of a trained army and wholesale bribery of the officials. Cromwell seized the stick by the clever exploitation of the religious and political prejudices of his age. Napoleon had the rod put in his hands by the bankruptcy of the Jacobins and the weakness of everybody about him. We do not discover the germs of a national cudgeller in Sir Douglas Haig; more's the pity.

Comically enough, the Swiss are by no means overjoyed at the prospect of Geneva becoming the headquarters of the League of Nations. At first they were flattered by the compliment; and the shopkeepers began to rub their hands, and buy imaginary "lines" of diplomatic fancies. But the Swiss are an intensely cautious, peace-loving, and narrow-minded people. The rubbing of hands has changed to a scratching of heads, and to doubts and scruples, and questionings as to what this League of Nations is going to let them in for. Their troubled imagination calls up visions of phlegmatic Britons, and fiery Frenchmen, and insolent Germans, meeting in wordy warfare in their delightful city, and they don't know to what it may lead, or how they may be dragged into the disputes. Messengers have set off, hot-foot, for Paris to beg the Swiss to be excused from this too great honour.

THE STOP-GAP PEACE.

THE most disastrous war in history has come formally to an end with the acceptance by the new German delegation of the terms imposed by the Western Allies. The issue of *Weltmacht oder Niedergang* has ended in downfall so complete that the world has scarcely yet realized it. Dramatically, the contrast between the Germany of five short years ago with her brilliant future and the Germany of to-day is most fittingly contemplated in silence. To the Gibbon, or perhaps the Thucydides, of the future, no subject will offer greater possibilities. Nor has the time yet come for scientific analysis. Only the future can show how far the ruin of Germany is remediable. The present significance of the Peace lies in the lifting of the blockade of Central Europe.

The resignation of the Scheidemann Government was neither unexpected nor is it important. While negotiations proceeded at Paris, the German Government used the possibility of refusing to sign as a means of gaining concessions and declared the draft treaty unacceptable. Once the final treaty had been presented, the men who had declared they would not sign were replaced by others who had not so committed themselves. The significance of the change lies precisely in its unimportance: Scheidemann and Brockdorff-Rantzau have gone, Noske and Erzberger remain. That Noske, who represents the military authorities, favoured signing indicates that the attitude of governing circles in Prussia is the same as that which originally dictated their request for an armistice: a vivid appreciation of the slender bases on which authority rests in Germany. They are convinced—and we believe they are right—that any amelioration of Germany's condition depends essentially on the maintenance of authority. A refusal to sign would entail a further occupation of Germany and the prolongation of the blockade. The first measure might easily result in the separation from Berlin of the Rhineland and South Germany under French supervision, and possibly even in the placing of the whole of Silesia under Polish control. The maintenance of the blockade in its most extreme stringency would certainly cause a revolution so much more general than those of January and March that the Free Corps could not have suppressed it. Passive resistance, therefore, resulting in either foreign occupation or a communist breaking-up of both the machinery and the personnel of government, would have completed the destruction of the Prussian organization which from December to March saved the tottering social order in Germany. Therefore the Government decided to sign.

The treaty to which it has committed itself is one which in any case cannot be carried out as it stands. The financial liability it imposes is not merely enormous, but undetermined. Unless English, French, and German experts can agree, Germans are to work for foreign creditors for an indefinite period. Simultaneously the bulk of the mineral and shipping resources on which the liquidation of the debt must depend are transferred away or hypothecated. Germany's corn and potato-producing lands are given to the Poles, and a portion of her live stock taken away at the same time that the confiscation of gold and securities deprives her of the means of importing food supplies and raw materials. A Germania Irredenta is created on the west and to a still worse extent on the east, where millions of Germans are placed under the far inferior civilizations of Poles and Czechs. To the South-East, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is replaced by a number of nations, each of which is itself a small Austria-Hungary in the number of alien and discontented racial minorities under its rule. The new Slav nations possess nothing corresponding to the ultimate sanction of Hapsburg rule, which was the support of Berlin. The treaty has been condemned by pro-Ally neutrals and by indubitably patriotic Americans and Englishmen. We have consistently criticised it, not because it is severe, but because it is unstable.

So much for "democratic" diplomacy. "Open covenants openly arrived at" have been drawn up in the strictest secrecy. "Self-determination" has meant

a disregard of minorities far more complete than ever existed in the old Europe. For the "national interests" derided by democratic pamphleteers have been substituted Press dictation and the clamour of popular ignorance. The cry of "making Germany pay," for example, may have been necessary to win the General Election for Mr. George, but it lost us the services of Mr. J. M. Keynes, in whose views on the indemnity we have much greater confidence. The Milner interview prior to the Armistice leads us to believe that a diplomacy less democratic would have avoided the capital error of Paris, which has been the substitution of philosophic and moral half-truths for political and economic realities. The result of democratic diplomacy has been to produce a treaty which both contracting parties know will not be carried out.

What then is the *arrière pensée* of the Germans? The wide differences of opinion which existed in Germany as to the degree of responsibility of the Kaiser's government have been bridged by the Treaty. From the extreme Pan-German who cynically regards it as merely the consequence of defeat to the extreme Communist who regards it as the product of Entente "Imperialism," all Germans are equally intent on revision. There are two lines along which such revision may proceed, and on which is chosen depends the character of the future social order in Europe. In the event of a continuation of the policy which produced territorial dismemberment and the unlimited indemnity, the German effort for revision will follow the line indicated by THE SATURDAY REVIEW before Count Brockdorff-Rantzau presented his memorandum on the Labour clauses of the Covenant—an appeal to international Labour. Such an appeal may not produce immediate results. But as the months and years go by, the effects of malnutrition will become less acute. The habit of work will return. The hopelessness resulting from the breaking of four years' tension by utter defeat will give way to confidence born of the fact that some kind of Germany came through these terrible years, and that some remnant of national organisation survived. Moreover, German acceptance of the terms does not, as an allied member of the Peace Conference is said to have asserted, imply the repudiation of Lenin. The governing classes in Prussia believe that in a Europe controlled by Labour Germany will regain her leadership. Unless our Russian policy is made more effective than hitherto—which may well involve a greater expenditure than the tax-paying classes can stand—it is difficult to see how we can render aid to the new States of the West Slav Belt sandwiched between Bolshevik Russia and Germany. English and French Governments, especially the probable Labour Governments of the near future, will not find it easy to provide either volunteer or conscript armies for the purpose of enforcing the retention of West Prussia by Poland. When trade with Germany has once been restarted, it is difficult to imagine America, or by consequence the neutrals, participating in a blockade in order to ensure that a factory in Saxony is not manufacturing one more round of ammunition than it is entitled to. In the minds of the German delegation there is probably an alternative hope which English Conservatives would do well to consider seriously. Over Eastern Europe the fabric of society has gone to pieces. Famine and typhus sweep over lands formerly populated by thriving communities, marauding bands have replaced the security of police and regular troops. In Western Europe strikes for higher wages and more idleness march hand in hand with a financial situation growing steadily worse. Over all hangs the shortage of the materials out of which the social order is built up.

Upheaval in West European society is a possibility of the near future. The desperateness of the situation is European in its extent, and the Germans, with the clearer vision of the Continental dealing with Continental problems, see that well. Enlightened self-interest on our part could make use of the feeling for order and industry to enlist the strength of the German State against the waves of social disorganisation which are beginning to sweep over Europe.

WHO'S TO DO THE DIRTY WORK?

THIS question was answered in the ancient world by the employment of slaves. Had this war been fought two thousand years ago, the German indemnity would have been paid by a large consignment of Fritzes and Gretchens, who would have worked our coal mines, washed our clothes, and made our beds: the more intelligent of them we should have freed, and made them our secretaries and stewards. It was this usage of war that enabled the civilisations of Greece and Rome to flourish, and has handed down to us a culture which we still, unconsciously, try to copy. Christianity—and it is perhaps the greatest service it has done mankind—steadily sapped the custom of slavery, by preaching the divine relationship of man. It took many centuries to do it, and even the Emperor Justinian, towards the close of the sixth century, did not quite extirpate an institution, which was revived by the Spaniards, the French and the English in the sixteenth century on the discovery of the American continent. But modern slavery, not finally abolished till after the American civil war in 1861, was confined to the African races. In Europe the conquest of Greeks and Romans by Goths, by Franks and Teutons, caused the enslavement of white captives to disappear. For slavery the Gothic civilisation substituted feudalism, an improvement, at least in theory, for though the vassal and the serf had hard times, they were, in the eye of the law at all events, men, with some rights.

In England feudalism was legally extinguished in the reign of Charles II., when the military tenure was exchanged for a nominal rent. But the spirit and the habits of feudalism survived for a good hundred years after its legal abolition. By the time "Wilkes and Liberty" had arrived (*circa* 1786) feudalism was turning faint, and slightly ridiculous. The growth of the large towns, to which the rural tenants were being drawn, began to kill feudalism: but it did not receive its formal *coup de grâce* till the Reform Bill of 1832. From the accession of Queen Victoria there grew up the relation between superiors and inferiors with which we are familiar, the cash *nexus*, the relation of contract resting on payment for definite and various services. Industrial and domestic service differed not only in the nature of the work done, but in the fact that domestic servants lived in some sort of familiarity and even friendship with those whom they served, while the miner or factory hand or clerk had purely business dealings with his employers. Since the beginning of the twentieth century there has been a rapidly increasing demand that the legislature shall substitute status for contract, by fixing the duties and the remuneration of master and servant, or employer and employee, as they are now called.

The great war, amongst other changes, has apparently revolutionised the relations between employer and employee, and more markedly between master and servant. It is not difficult to see why. The war, which has been quite different from any precedent war, has taught the masses the power of numbers. They now see, as they never saw before, that the rich and the gentry are dependent on them for their existence; and that but for them, the masses, the said gentry would have been killed, or become the bondsmen of Germany. Women as well as men have found this out, and women have, for the greater part of them, achieved financial independence in finding it out. The results of this discovery are prodigious. They (by which we mean the men and women who work with their hands in the industrial and domestic spheres) now see that they need not do anything they don't like; and that they can be paid anything they like for doing what they don't like. In one of the comedies of Aristophanes, an informer or spy is asked why he does this work for a living, when there are paid magistrates and policemen. His answer is, "Because I like it." Nobody likes doing dirty work. The miner does not like cutting coal, because he gets covered with coal-dust, and runs some risk of accidents. The housemaid does not like cleaning grates, or silver, or boots, or emptying slops. The cook doesn't like washing the door-step, or clearing the kitchen flue, or washing

dishes. The scavenger doesn't like removing refuse, or the poulterer's man gutting fish. The plumber doesn't like messing about with pipes and drains; the painter finds the smell of paint makes him bilious; and the carpenter and the gardener find their jobs back-aching. What is to make all these people do these things? Nothing but the necessity of earning enough money to eat, drink and dress themselves and their families. Remove the spur of hunger, and why should anybody do the dirty work? Or, if they do it, why should they not make those who want it done pay through the nose? These are the serious, the very serious questions that confront us to-day: serious, because paying through the nose ends, sooner or later, in no nose, or rather, in no payment. The people who want the dirty work done will no longer be able to pay the exorbitant charges, except a very small number. They will perforce take to doing the dirty work themselves, and then the people who used to do it will be thrown out of work, and will come to the Labour Minister for work or doles, and the Minister will not be able to give them either, for the reasons displayed above.

In the Colonies, in Canada and Australia, outside the few big towns, people do their own dirty work. That is why in Australia and Canada the social type, which we still call a lady, is very rare, and what, for want of a better word, we still call a gentleman is also rare. Obviously the existence of a refined, well-mannered, cultivated class, interesting itself in art or music or literature, or sport, cannot exist without somebody to do the dirty work. It looks as if England were sinking into the primitive social phase where the woman becomes a domestic drudge, and the man an official machine. The habit of obedience, which is the keystone of the arch of civilisation, once destroyed, is very difficult to restore.

"Take but degree away, untune that string,
And, hark, what discord follows! each thing meets
In mere oppugnancy."

THE AMERICANS IN PARIS.

NO one at this or at any other time should write or even say things likely to create international ill-feeling. But facts will not be ignored. There are, indeed, certain truths which, like mushrooms, grow best in the dark. It is not only absurd, it is also in the long run contrary to the interests of international good-will, to ignore the fact that the Americans are not as popular in Paris to-day as they were twelve months ago. If, instead of talking about the circumstance as though it were a State secret and dwelling upon it with the sort of gusto which only scandal can import to topics which lie within her province, we had discussed it openly—if, instead of publicly pretending that the Americans were still as popular as ever, we had really tried to understand why they have come to be extremely disliked—all parties might to-day have been both wiser and happier. A very little consideration will show that the Americans were almost bound to be unpopular in Europe, as soon as our gratitude for their imposing military parade of 1918 had lost its edge. If they had been as wise as serpents and harmless as doves, they could hardly have avoided offence. Had this been more clearly realised, due allowance would have been made for the difficulties of their position, and things would never have come to the present pass. There are reasons why the Americans are unpopular in Paris into which it would be internationally indiscreet to enter. There are other reasons, social and deportmental, which are obvious to every man in every street of the world. There can surely be no harm in discussing publicly what everyone privately knows. The notion that no allusion should be made in the press to the *secrets de polichinelle* which are the theme of every dinner-table is mainly responsible for the dullness and ineffectiveness of modern journalism.

At the present moment the Americans are regarded by the ordinary Parisian as a barbarous nation, and the prospect of beholding them rejoice on July 4th, possibly on a large scale, already fills him with apprehension

and disgust. The nation which a year ago was the most popular nation in Europe has become, in Paris, a burden almost too grievous to be borne. The other evening we heard a lady whose profession brings her into rather close contact with the American soldiers and minor diplomatists in Paris proclaim amid general assent that the Americans are at the best children and that at the worst they are brutes. We are not subscribing to this opinion; we are merely recording that it was passed, and suggesting that the passing of such an opinion is at the present moment deplorable, and might with the exercise of tact, forbearance and understanding on both sides have been avoided. It may be of interest to the Englishman who stays at home to know that French people cannot tell the difference between an American and an Englishman by his speech. To the French ear the languages are identical. But the French distinguish the two nations at a glance by their general appearance and behaviour, and they find very little resemblance in their ideas, sentiments and general educational background. The comparisons at present passed upon the two great English-speaking communities (as our press loves to describe Great Britain and the United States) are for the moment extremely flattering to ourselves. But if we are wise, we shall not allow ourselves to be thereby puffed up. The Americans could not avoid being unpopular in Paris. The mere fact that they came late into the war and that the importance of their share in the peace negotiations is out of all proportion to their sacrifices is in any event a difficult fact to discount or to obscure, especially as the French are as notoriously sensitive and impatient in respect of their obligations as M. Perrichon.

Socially the Americans in Paris are in the position of a man staying in the house of a friend and forced to behave much as though the house were his own. It is even worse than that. We have to consider that the man who thus stays in the house of his friend and behaves as though it were his own has, in effect, a mortgage on the house. We are most of us the debtors of America, and France not least of all. The American army in Paris may almost be described as the man in possession, and there is no possibility of avoiding him. It was an unlucky decision to make Paris an American Military headquarters. The Wild West sprawls in the cafés and patrols the grand boulevards, with the result that a French nobleman may run out of his house one fine evening and find an offending French citizen on the pavement, "*baigné dans son sang*." The American army could no more be popular in Paris than the Canadians could be popular in Epsom. When, on the top of the military invasion of Paris, there came an American Delegation, fourteen hundred strong, filling the air with principles and viewpoints, and amusing itself loudly and continuously, not the most civilised President in the history of the world could quite cover with his professorial mantle the nakedness of his countrymen. The Americans were everywhere, and they could not be ignored.

All this would be of merely passing interest, were it not for the peculiar position which America will occupy for the next thirty years. What is happening in Paris will happen on a large scale in Europe, as soon as peace is signed. During the War America has become the creditor of the civilised world. Her chief problem will be how to spend the money she has made. She is so rich that she has begun to be alarmed for her foreign trade, for it is impossible for Dives to trade with Lazarus, unless Lazarus can be induced to borrow the necessary capital to set himself up in business. Whatever ultimate arrangements are made, it is fairly clear that America will have more money than she knows what to do with, and that Europe will be, to an extent unknown before, an American playground. And Europe will hate it to-morrow as Paris hates it to-day. Only by the greatest tact and wisdom can America secure in Europe the liking and regard indispensable to a great international power. Perhaps America does not desire to be a great international power. Perhaps the Senators who desire to keep America within her set bounds and traditions

are wiser than the President who aspires to rank his country with the older civilisations. Perhaps the Munro doctrine is the result of a profound national instinct—the shyness of a young nation doubtful of her capacity to associate prematurely with her elders. This is a point which the Americans will settle in their own time and way. But it is already quite clear from what has happened in Paris that, if America desires a great international position, she will have to face a problem not unlike that of a bailiff invited to take tea with an ancient family.

It is a difficult position, and one which no nation could contrive to fill successfully without centuries of polite international tradition behind her, or an instinctive delicacy and sympathy with the feelings of others which is not commonly possessed by the very young. America is, indeed, called to fill an international rôle of a kind with which the "new" diplomacy is singularly powerless to deal. One cannot help wishing that President Wilson would sometimes give his countrymen a hint of the social difficulties which confront them. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that President Wilson sees only the best side of the Americans in Paris, though this may be inevitable. He is as little likely to see the Americans incurring unpopularity as the headmaster of a school is to witness a school rag. The behaviour which President Wilson is accustomed to approve in his subordinates bears as much relation to the behaviour of the Americans when diplomatically or undiplomatically at large as the behaviour of well-conducted schoolboys during prayers bears to their behaviour when out-of-bounds. One of the nicest things about the Americans, in fact, is their obvious respect for their Head; they behave remarkably well whenever the Head is about. The President has told us again and again that he is a representative American, and that the strength of his international position depends on the fidelity with which he impersonates the average American. In a statesman who has been called upon to act the part of a Supreme High Arbiter among the older nations this is a dangerous illusion. It need hardly be said that, if all the Americans in Paris were like President Wilson, the Parisians would applaud his speeches with a better grace.

ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGONS.

SIGNS of grace are multiplying in the English theatre. There is now 'The Lost Leader' at the Court; 'Abraham Lincoln' at the Hammersmith Lyric; the Russian Ballet at the Alhambra; and 'St. George and the Dragons' at the Kingsway. 'St. George and the Dragons' is an amusing comedy to which full justice has not yet been done by the public or the critics. The critics could not get over the fact that the heroines of the play belong to those pre-war figures of feminine revue, in whom Fanny, who once wrote a First Play not unappreciated in its time, was the most famous example. It is true that the heroines of 'St. George and the Dragons' bully their parents and inveigh continually against the "tyranny of the obsolete." It is also true that what they say of the generation which preceded them has been said before and better said by dramatists whose chief business it was to demonstrate that everything was new under the sun. But this really does not matter so far as the real merit and humour of Mr. Phillpotts's comedy of Devonshire life are concerned. There are moments when the audience is wholly delighted with 'St. George and the Dragons,' and there are enough of these to make the fortune of the play, if only the public will forget all about those unlucky references to the rising and falling generations. The comedy that delights us at the Kingsway arises, not from the tendency of our heroines to spell modern (which is a tiresome word) with a capital M, but from their tendency to spell reality (which is a word more potent than Lord Burleigh's nod) with a capital R. It is a dangerous practice to spell reality at all, especially if you are the daughter of a baronet. To spell it with a capital letter is to ask for exactly that sort of trouble of which a good comedy can be made.

Monica Somerset spelt reality with the largest R in the fount at her disposal. When the play opens, she has decided to prove that life is real, life is earnest by marrying the son of a working farmer; and she is only encouraged in this design by the opposition of her father. But Monica had reckoned without St. George. St. George was her god-father and a bishop, two good reasons for presuming that he could not spell reality, if he tried. As it happened, he had his own ideas about this remarkable word. He firmly believed for one thing that his god-daughter did not know what she was talking about. Persons who use capital letters never really do know what they are talking about (which is one of those reasons why the ignorance of the public increases in proportion to the size of the headlines in its newspapers). St. George laid an ingenious little plot whereby Monica, before she married her working farmer, might really discover what life in a working farm was like. It does not matter how he contrived it. You have merely to imagine that our heroine (who plays Debussy to please herself and Saint Sæns to please, presumably, the Bishop) submitted, among other things, to the horrors of a musical evening upon a Devonshire homestead; dancing with her working farmer primed for festivity with sound and wholesome Hollands; and abruptly realising that, when the white cow calves, it is a crisis, and that, when a labourer feels that his diction is likely to be impeded, he spits.

There is no doubt as to the delight of the audiences who have been fortunate enough to find their way to the Kingsway in this revelation of a Devon interior. For one thing, it is the best acted scene on the London stage at the present moment. Monica says very little, but for the first time she thinks hard without any capital letters, and to watch this process upon the expressive countenance of Miss Lillah McCarthy is a delight, even to a generation which, owing to the Cinema, has become a connoisseur in facial play. Then there is Mr. Thesiger, almost elfin in his enjoyment of the mischief he is making and Mr. Marriott, a Devonshire labourer (with song) whose performance at the musical evening is as little likely to be forgotten by the audience as by Monica herself. There are also Miss Mary Brough and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn as Devonshire folk and Mr. Claude King, who is Monica's idea of reality upon the heights.

We have only one quarrel with the scene, namely that there is not enough of it. We wish Mr. Phillpotts, instead of giving up his last act to the rebellious daughters, had devoted more time to the disillusioning of the more important one. For this is the real play, and it is one of the most amusing things seen on our stage for a long while. We say this without a quiver of doubt, despite the very lively and agreeable impersonation of the second daughter by Miss Meggie Albanesi—a triumph of youth and voice and feature, pleasant enough in itself, but not really relevant to the main business of the evening. Mr. Phillpotts was in too great a hurry to prick the bubble of his heroine's enthusiasm for Reality. We feel she would not have been so soon and so easily discouraged. Besides, it was such fun to watch the event, that we regretted the speed with which it passed.

However, there is enough of the jolly Devon interior, enough of the dainty disgust of Miss McCarthy and enough of Mr. Thesiger's delightful Bishop to make up an entertainment which should on no account be missed by anyone needing a reasonable excuse for laughter which is both satisfying and reputable.

SEASIDE PLANTING.

ALTHOUGH the seashore of Great Britain extends to 7,000 miles, very few plantations of forest trees are seen actually by the sea. Then, again, there are probably at least 450 seaside resorts, all desirous of being the most beautiful or in pleasant country surroundings. Most people realise how much trees, in their proper place, add to the amenity of the barest locality. However, although this is so, it is a pretty well known fact that few, if any, of the seaside

municipalities take much trouble about their trees.* In a similar way, with few exceptions, seaside landowners do not appear to have made the most of the possibilities of seaside planting. Some months ago a splendid book was brought out on this subject. Mr. A. D. Webster, in 'Seaside Planting—For Shelter, Ornament, and Profit,' gave readers the benefit of his life-long experience in dealing with these difficult silvicultural operations.

It seems high time that greater study should be made in solving the problem of making forest plantations in windswept or seaside places. It is best to begin with the most appealing interest. Does it pay? Luckily for the country generally, if we take all the factors into consideration, we can answer affirmatively. Many thousands of people have basked in the sun amidst the pines of Bournemouth, others again may have enjoyed the summer shade of the Eastham Woods, near Liverpool. What a contrast to these places are some of the sand-filled roads of Rhyl! Of course, not all land at the seaside is of value for a health resort or for a summer holiday. However, much of the seaside land is of comparatively low value; the wind sweeps in, cattle or crops have no protection, the salt-laden breezes are not beneficial to certain crops. Some very fine sand is blown on to the fertile fields, the summer sun, especially on the southern shores, beats fiercely down, accentuating even a temporary drought. Desiccated bare rock in places surrounded by groups of trees or woods looks even grander than when all the cliff side is bare. Although there is no direct connection between coast erosion and sand dunes, there is no doubt that sometimes the latter are formed after part of the shore has been eroded away. In other cases the recession of the sea leaves large open tracks of sand. When once the sea has left these areas, the surface of the sand becomes very dry, there is no grass, and the wind blows it into numerous little hills of most fantastic shape.

Another typical area is situated in Cornwall between Perranporth and Newquay. Here little grass grows, and there are numerous burrows inhabited by the rabbits. No attempt has yet been made to plant up either this or the first-named area. In the Island of Anglesey, at the Bodorgan, large and beautiful "remarkable" pines (*Pinus insignis*) have grown very quickly on what was once almost bare sand and rock. This plantation is situated upon the opposite side of the estuary to the Newborough sands. Other trees suitable to the place, such as ash, show very rapid growth.

Apparently, it has been found by the experience of Mr. Webster and others, that there are a large variety of trees and shrubs which thrive near the sea side. Taking the shrubs first, there are *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, *Arbutus Unedo*; then there are the *Aucubas*, *Berberis*, and *Buddleias*. Even the common nut, the *Laburnum*, *Daphne* and *Forsythia* all do well at the seaside. *Escallonias*, the holly, *Syringa* and various willows should not be forgotten. It also goes without saying that the lilac, *Weigela*, gorse, and tamarisk all grow well within the sound of the sea.

Amongst the trees there is a goodly collection from which it is possible to make a choice. The Maple family provides three members, notably, *Acer pseudo-platanus*. In the Pine group not only is the Corsican of value, but also the Mountain Pinaster, and especially the Maritime Pine, show rapid growth and stand the wind. The Banks Pine (*Pinus Banksiana*) is not seen as much as it should be. It has proved one of the successful species. Probably many have seen the Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) growing rapidly at the seaside, and continually adding fresh fronds to its bright green foliage. In colour it is quite different from all the other Cypresses, which are of a darker hue. Perhaps some people may not know that the alder, birch, hornbeam and beech will grow near the sea. The poplar sounds a much more suitable tree, and, in fact, four species, viz.:—*Alba*, *Canadensis*, *Canescens* and *Nigra*, can be grown with advantage. One elm (*Ulmus alata*), not to speak of the Field (*U. campestris*) and the Scotch or Wych Elm (*U. montana*) stands the seaside winds. Various willows, such

* Consider Hythe: how much of its beauty does it not owe to the trees on the banks of the canal and its valley!—Ed. S.R.

as the White, the Goat, *Forsteriana* and *Russelliana*, together with some oaks, such as the Holm, Turkey, and Common Oak are also included amongst the seaside trees. The Evergreen Oak, with its dense foliage, provides a remarkable amount of shelter for a garden or for stock. Some of the rarer trees, such as the Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) the Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus Chinensis*) and Nordmann's Fir (*Abies Nordmanniana*) have also done well, the last-named especially when sheltered.

Why do the seaside gardens usually look so bare and dry with a few stunted shrubs? In most places, it is true, it is difficult to start the planting. The surface of the soil is liable to become almost saturated with salt, and this in turn in the summer leads to its being very dry. Usually, too, the seaside garden in the front of the house is rather small and does not lend itself to very extensive gardening operations. Then, too, during the summer, the householder or occupier is very busy in catering for himself, and others, or in bathing, or other seaside occupations—thus the garden becomes neglected. The Siberian Salt Tree (*Halimodendron argenteum*) has been by no means so widely planted as it deserves. The Box Thorn or Tea Tree (*Lycium Europæum*) is used as a hedge plant, whilst, with a little shelter, the Laurustinus sends out more flowers than when planted in inland situations. The Flowering Currant (*Ribes*) is easily raised from cuttings.

Perhaps many people do not know the Chilian Myrtle (*Myrtus Luma*) with its masses of white flowers. Opinions may be divided as to the beauties of the Aloe-like tree, *Cordyline australis*. It is more reminiscent of the tropical zone than that of a temperate climate. It is nice to know that the Wistaria (*Wistaria chinensis*) will also grow well as a seaside wall shrub or creeper. It may be news to many inland dwellers that the common Fig (*Ficus carica*) not only grows well, but produces fruit in abundance, when grown in suitable seaside localities. Some of the warmer southern seaside resorts could gain much, no doubt, by planting the fig tree for the fruit alone.

Needless to say, the cost of seaside planting has been rather high compared with inland operations. This is, perhaps, all the more so, because greater pains and much more trouble had to be taken in preparing the ground for the reception of the plants. Although pre-war rates are no guide to present day expenses of planting operations, they may be used as an index of what could be done. These data are also interesting as showing the very great variations that there were in the cost per acre of forming plantations in the different parts of the country. Along the Welsh seaboard the cost, including wind barrier, pitting and planting, was £7 15s. per acre. Near by, another plantation cost £12 per acre, including the cost of drainage and trenching to a depth of 18 inches. In the South of England, near Dover, the cost of trenching to a depth of 22 inches is £20 per acre, whilst the planting costs an additional £7 per acre. In another instance pit planting costs £8 5s. On the East Coast large plantations cost on the average £9 per acre to establish, whilst in other localities of Norfolk the cost was £10 per acre.

For the best returns from seaside planting there are the records from the French Government planting in the Landes. On the Welsh coast, at 35 years of age, larch and ash growing within 100 yards of the sea were sold at 11s. and 13s. respectively. This would probably mean a return of £120 per acre. In another case, after 50 years' growth, ash and sycamore were worth 32s. each, or a return of £225 per acre. In Kent the thinnings of a mixed plantation of Corsican and Scotch pine, maple, ash, birch and elm, have been sold at 35s. per dozen; in the North of Ireland larch and ash, 27 years of age, have realised 10s. each.

However, in seaside planting it is not fair only to take into consideration the direct financial returns, good as these may be. It is very hard to express the money value of the protection afforded to a house or garden from a well-planted, well-grown belt of forest trees, standing near the sea. Again, who shall assess the extra financial return from the protection of stock by a

well-arranged shelter of woods near the sea side? One seaside resort, such as Aberdovey, is comparatively bare of trees; another, such as Llanfairfechan, with its beautiful groups and groves of trees invites invidious comparison. Who shall say what is the extra value attaching to the houses in the latter because of the greater beauty of the place due to its trees?

Who are the most suitable authorities to undertake seaside planting? First of all, we have the local land-owners. In the second place, the different seaside municipalities might certainly undertake some planting, both single trees or plantations, thus practising both arboriculture and silviculture. Occasionally, in the more sparsely populated part of the country, the County Council might take an interest in the matter.

Finally, we have the supreme Government, as represented by the Interim Forest Authority. It is generally considered that this body will have, eventually, the largest amount of funds at its disposal, and will also be in a position to afford to wait longest for a return on the initial outlay.

THE RUSSIAN BALLET—THE FANTASTICAL SHOP.

WHEN we grow romantic about shops, we pay our tribute to childhood. Which of us does not remember some little villainous windows that lured from its predestined course the luncheon penny, or does not sigh for the thrill of the shilling boat, so long eyed and with such immense economies purchased? Nor have the story-writers forgotten the glamour of the shop. Though the wild Irishman, who came from Castlepatrick, made 'A Song against Grocers' in 'The Flying Inn,' Mr. Chesterton was handsome with the tradesman in 'The Napoleon of Notting Hill.' There behind every article of commerce hid either a history or a continent—all India breathed from the tea-canister to welcome some condiment from Huron's snowy mountains. And Mr. Wells has a magic-shop of his own in Regent Street, above the place where they used to have the incubators—between that and the road to Babylon. But these two were commercial establishments, though in the second case the commerce was, no doubt, with an ugly customer. The third and perfect shop is visited by very different, delicate customers—airy, shy, ineluctable—the lost children of 'They.' Their shopping was on a lawn somewhere (as they say) in Sussex with the sun stealing through tall trees on to the shining kit of the motorist. What better than a shop to lure children out of the wood?

It is because we also are children, or because so many have walked in the wood that the Fantastical Shop of the Russians had us by the throat. It was to begin with in the true legitimate descent, not only from the shop of our childhood, but from the shop of the stage. With our memories of the Lowther Arcade there mixes quite unhistorically a memory of Genée in 'Coppélia.' It was Genée first who set all the French dolls to their magic work; and, as we supposed, then changed the dancing dolls into shooting stars, as who should sing:—

Ballerina assoluta
Finds the perfect tune to suit her
In a flute from fairy land.

Many things have happened since then—the war, for instance, and Lopokova. So there is no disloyalty intended to 'Coppélia' or the older shops of our dreams, if we confess that 'La Boutique Fantasque' had wares to sell that we bought half with laughter, and half (well, why not?) with a sort of tears, coin, indeed, from no terrestre mint. We have had to buy so many dull, so many ugly, so many terrible things these last four years and at the highest price. Is not enthusiasm to be forgiven here, where we would spend truly, and fleet the time carelessly, as they did in the golden world?

What is the secret of it? We should, we imagine, speak reservedly of choreography, with a studio air of *décor*; and have a little polite condescension for Rossini. We admit that for adequate criticism some-

thing should be delivered on these matters. We unhappily remember only a very enchanting evening's shopping, where we bought—well, let us remember what we bought. There were two Dances of the Tarantella—dolls, we suppose, out of Genoa or Sicily, defeating geography, and with wooden ease embracing both. There were four Kings and four Queens of Cards, the sort of cards that the Fairy Godmother leaves, when she calls to distribute her blessings. There were five (we think, five) Cossack dolls, all that was left, perhaps, of the steamroller that stuck somewhere in a marsh. The Bolsheviks may be splendid fellows—all that their Labour friends claim for them—but, we asked ourselves, Could they dance so, wear such boots? And the answer to these questions is not unimportant in a toy-shop. Then the Snob and the Melon-Seller walked in, bringing with them the passions of thirty years ago along with everything that used to thrill in pantomimes of more years ago even than that. All this riot of dolls danced and bowed, and waited for Lopokova and Massine—for the Cancan that was danced thus in a dream of Du Maurier. We remember a vague accusation that the Cancan was a disreputable affair to be watched with averted eyes. Lopokova took it into the dolls' house with her, and it became a whirl of tender, sly and gleaming grace, with all the time enough dolliness to remind us that, when daylight came, she would have to go back to the box, and be parted from Massine. We agree with Lopokova that such a parting is against nature, as it is against all artifice. It may be there are better dolls and better shops. No doubt, as the old divine who praised strawberries might have said, the Draper of shops and dolls, very omnipotent, might have designed better, but, equally without doubt, he never did.

And in any case, we were wiser than the customers in the shop. We didn't wait till next morning to fetch Lopokova and Massine. We took them away then and there, and mean to keep them on the shelves by the side of broken boats and unbroken memories.

A JULY DAY.

Too drowsy is the sky : waves, long and lean,
Creep to the burning sand and die unseen.

The sapless grass is withered; all the trees
Stand motionless, until a sullen breeze

Stirs fitfully the leaves to dim surprise,
And, hot with summer, in the forest dies.

There is no life; no song of joyous bird
Breaks through the silence that can just be heard.

The sky is ashen white : the burning sun
Has bleached the blue of Heaven, and the dun

Rank undergrowth beneath the dreaming pines
Is hot and brittle like abandoned vines.

A lizard glows upon the dust-white road;
A bed of stones marks where the river flowed

Last April when the rains of Spring were here.
And swans sulk largely on the yellow mere.

G. C.

CORRESPONDENCE

MILITARISM AND EMPIRE.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Reading some of your articles on the Armies in various parts of the world, which some people—usually those safely at home—call our empire, I must say you appear to take a very one-sided attitude.

Please remember the Union Jack which floats over Cairo is the emblem of *freedom and liberty* for those natives here; but are *We* Britons free, and do we get justice, after being away from our homes, wives and families for the greater part of the war? And still we are kept in military bondage here seven months after hostilities have ceased. That is *one* of the reasons why militarism in its present ugly form must be

crushed, and the power taken from the War Office, or we shall find ourselves in a similar plight to that of Germany as time goes on, saying nothing about the tremendous taxation for the upkeep of the military machine. If that is the price of Empire, well, we are better off without it.—Yours faithfully,

MARRIED AND BANISHED.

Cairo.

THE PRESS AND THE "SPECIALS."

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—You say that the stunt-press blew no trumpets and beat no drums for the Specials.

Well, I have seen *one* allusion (after the police strike last August) to us in the leader-columns of the *Daily Mail*—but that was a sneer.

Yours faithfully,

SPECIAL.

SOCIETY AT ASCOT.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I much regret to observe that THE SATURDAY REVIEW has been indulging in claptrap, only worthy of the Racing Edition of the Cocoa Press, concerning Society at the Ascot meeting.

Furthermore, you have grouted up an old incident which should remain buried.

THE SATURDAY REVIEW for once in a way is guilty of an absurd spelling error very prevalent in England, that of spelling the game "Baccara" as if it was the town of "Baccarat" in France.

This is as bad as spelling "Moral" with an "e" at the end of it.

I was at Ascot on all four days and was particularly struck by the simplicity of dress. The £500 estimate is a gross exaggeration unworthy of your usual accuracy. Such inexactitudes merely serve to feed the fires of class hatred.

I have observed that the SATURDAY REVIEW fails to realise that a revival of "Merrie England" is a strong antidote to Bolshevism. Surely it is right and proper that the guests "should array themselves in wedding garments" at a meeting which the King and Queen graciously honour by their presence.

Perhaps the Editor's austerity has carried him away on this occasion, or did the paragraph slip in unawares, because he was away at Ascot?

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HOZIER.

Carlton Club.

[The gallant Commander who signs this letter is obviously more familiar with men of war than women of peace. Otherwise he would know that the simple pearl necklaces, now so universally used to cover nakedness, cost anything from £300 to £3,000. And not having yet slipped the knot of matrimony round his neck, he has never had the pleasure of paying bills for feather boas, silk stockings, cloaks lined with cloth of gold, etc. It is evident that Commander Hozier did not venture beyond the Royal Enclosure, or he would have seen sights of barbaric feminine extravagance fully justifying our description. But if Benedict is no authority on pin-money, he may be, and probably is, a very good authority on baccara, and we accept his correction of our spelling; though we don't know why he is so peevish about one of our best little anecdotes.—Ed. S. R.]

THE PARI-MUTUEL.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Before the War the City of Paris received £240,000 for the relief of taxes from one-tenth of the takings of the Pari-Mutuel for the racing round Paris. Since, we have had the sense, in a limited degree to copy the French in Lottery Loans; it is to be hoped that we shall have betting legalised under Government control in the same way to reduce our taxes. Take away the chance of jobbery, none of its advocates would stir a finger on behalf of Nationalization of Coal Mines, Rails, or anything else; but the

Pari-Mutuel is quite a different thing. It is all straight and above board.

And there is another aspect. The City of Chester from the races the other day got £4,442. Miners arrived in their motors, and young fellows who had been funking in Munitions' Works, to say nothing of the thousands living on unemployment money. By means of the Pari-Mutuel the honest and industrious, who have to find the money for doles (apart from having to pay the miner's 100 per cent. more for coal) would get back some of the money from the miners who are blackmailing our commerce by working shorter hours, and ca'canny methods in the mines. Thus, the hard-working and honest portion of the community, who are victims of the miners' tyranny would get a little of their own back. The only people who would suffer would be the Book-makers, who are non-producers. Their disappearance would do the country no harm. Finally the Pari-Mutuel is used in such democratic countries as Australia, etc.; so the Lovers of Progress, etc., cannot say anything against it.

ANDREW W. ARNOLD.

P.S.—I am informed that before the War during the Doncaster races, when, for the benefit of the commerce of the country, the mines were closed for three days in the surrounding district, the Corporation of Doncaster paid a great part of the rates of the town by taking over the tramways and charging double up to the Course during the race week. As the miners' wages have risen so enormously, and as for the most part they escape keeping up the Army and Navy, etc., by not paying any income tax, it is to be hoped that the Corporation will have the sense to quadruple the fares.

TAXI-DRIVERS AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 13th June, relative to the attitude of taxi-drivers towards the public, I am directed by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to acquaint you that it is already a punishable offence for a driver to exact more than his legal fare, and it is also an offence for him to use abusive language.

I am to add that, should you desire to prosecute in any case, the Police will render all possible assistance, or, if this course is not desirable, if you will take the numbers of the cabman and send particulars of the complaint to this office, the matter will be carefully investigated.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. R. UNDERWOOD,
Secretary.

New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.
20th June, 1919.

[The above is in reply to a letter written by us to Scotland Yard.—ED. S.R.]

RIDING IN ART.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—It is a pity your reviewer, in his very interesting article, entitled 'Youth, Colour and Varnish,' uses the following praise in reference to a picture of a man "reining back" a horse.

He says, evidently in admiration! "Look, the man's whole weight is thrown upon the stirrups, thrust forward by his straining legs!" and later speaks of riders "manifested in their straining pose."

Now the above description does *not* represent perfect riding, but the sort of riding we see in Hyde Park on Sundays. The essence of riding is *not* a strained, but an *easy* pose. The weight must *not* be thrown on the stirrups in "reining in," but the knees bent and the feet put back, *not* forward, and *no* weight put on the stirrups at all.

What would happen to your reviewer's rider if a stirrup leather broke under the "straining pose"?

One does not stop a horse by pulling with all one's strength on the reins, whilst pushing against the stirrups, but by squeezing the calves of the legs against

the horse's sides, whilst "feeling" the horse's mouth.

A horse is not stopped by brute force, but by skilful horsemanship, and a well-broken horse can be stopped with one finger.

Your reviewer describes very accurately the way in which painters who are not horsemen depict a rider stopping his horse; and the curious thing is, if an artist puts a man riding as a good horseman should, he is always found fault with by art critics. A good horseman sits with the easy grace of a Russian dancer, not a strain and a "bicycle face," as it used to be called.

WALTER WINANS.

Carlton Hotel, June 21st.

"SHALL" OR "WILL."

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—It is surprising how many educated people find a stumbling block in the use of these simple words. One has only to read the reports of the debates in Parliament to see how they are used either indiscriminately or incorrectly. For the most part Englishmen use them correctly by instinct and without any preconceived reason for the selection of the one in preference to the other. Scotsmen and Irishmen generally use them indiscriminately and often incorrectly. It may be urged by some that, as the words convey the same meaning, it is an advantage not only to ourselves, but to foreigners to treat them as equivalents. But this would be to destroy a perfectly logical distinction which has grown up with the English language and which deserves perpetuation. Scotsmen, Welshmen and Irishmen have already made many incursions into English institutions and have left their mark on them—not always for the better. However slavishly we have submitted to such dictation in other matters, a stand should be made against any tampering with our mother-tongue. Moreover, the rule for the correct use of the words in question can be readily grasped, and there is really no excuse for blundering over them. The one thing to remember is that "will" is to be regarded as a more polite word than "shall"; and the rest is simple.

The English are essentially a courteous and polite people, though they may not possess the superficial graces of manner that are found among the Latin races. The right use of the words "shall" and "will" is typical of the national character and rests on the basis of that modesty and self-depreciation which throughout the war has been universally acknowledged and frequently commented on by observant critics. It presupposes that in the speaker or writer, under ordinary circumstances, there exists a desire to be polite to his hearers or readers. The general rule, therefore, is that with "I" or "we" the less polite word "shall" should be used, and the more polite word "will" reserved for those addressed or referred to by the speaker (or writer). It must also be observed that this courtesy is extended even to the inferior creation and to inanimate things. Thus take the following sentence—"Controllers will some day be abolished. I (we) shall be very glad; and so will you. Neither they nor their regulations will be missed." Here the imaginary speaker rightly maintains his politeness even towards Controllers, and would do so even if they were of the inferior creation which, of course, he knows they are not. He is stating an obvious fact and indulging in no spirit of prophecy when he asserts that their impending departure will cause no painful emotions in himself and others. In this unruffled mood he uses "shall" and "will" in accordance with the canon of politeness.

But there are occasions when even an Englishman is stirred. There may be some wrong to be righted, some grievance to be redressed, some dereliction of duty to be condemned. The circumstances may call for plain speaking when politeness would be out of place. Emphasis and solemnity are now the impressions to be conveyed to the listener. The English language belongs to a conquering and governing race, and readily adapts itself to the mood of sternness which the conditions call for. To produce the required effect, the speaker has merely to reverse the rule already given. By simply transposing the words "shall" and "will,"

an Englishman can indicate that he has discarded politeness and that he is now speaking in a spirit of solemnity by way of prophecy, promise, or menace. For instance, he might say—"If our rulers betray the national interests, they shall pay the price. I (we) will see to it." Contrast the phrases "They shall pay the price" and "They will pay the price." The latter, taken by itself, merely suggests that over some business affair the cash will be forthcoming. The other conjures up visions of impeachment, The Tower, the scaffold. In "I will see to it," the speaker pledges himself to be instrumental in bringing the offenders to justice. "I shall see to it" would imply that in the ordinary course of events it would be for him to deal with the matter, but no promise would be given. Or the speaker might address an inefficient Minister—"You have squandered the national resources. You shall never again with our consent hold office." The use of the impolite "shall," in connexion with the person addressed, shows, as effectively as if he had gone out, slamming the door behind him, that the speaker is annoyed. Truly a language which by such simple means can so clearly define the mental attitude of its user is a glorious heritage, and Englishmen should preserve it, with all its shades of meaning, as a sacred trust. If words are sharp-edged tools, let us be careful not to blunt them by clumsy or ill-informed methods of using them. Looseness of expression engenders looseness of thought, which again leads to looseness of act. It would be strange indeed—but not unthinkable—if the evils now affecting the body politic as seen in Ireland, in India, in Egypt, were due to the fact that too many of our administrators are, by race and tradition, indifferent to the virtues of the words "shall" and "will," when properly applied.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. E.

DE QUINCEY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Surely your correspondent "A. A. B." and your original contributor are in substantial agreement about De Quincey as a master of English prose, even though they may have faintly different preferences among his many pages. When a century-old writer is recommended to a subsequent generation, there is always a danger that new readers, coming to him fresh from the critic's enthusiasm, may suffer a revulsion of feeling on encountering unexpected peculiarities that have the appearance of defects. To modern readers, De Quincey's enormous digressions and his questionable facetiousness will undoubtedly seem defects, even repulsive defects, if they are encountered without due preparation. Told to expect the worst, such readers will be ready to enjoy the best. Every old writer is subject to discount on the score of temporal peculiarities.

As "A.A.B." says rightly, De Quincey is the best of authors for browsing in; but readers must be ready to pass quickly over some barren tracks ("Thomas de Sawdust" was Henley's name for him) and to browse in contented leisure over a very large area if they want to find his best. It was, I think, a defect of the original article that it said much about the extremes of De Quincey's prose—the garrulity at one end and the eloquence at the other—but nothing, or very little, about the general narrative texture of his work, as exhibited in such books as the *Autobiography* and the *Reminiscences*, the latter a wonderful collection of literary portraits. De Quincey's portraiture of his contemporaries was as malicious as Hazlitt's—he was undoubtedly too hard on poor Parr, once enthroned as "the Whig Johnson," and now an utterly forgotten creature, save for De Quincey's own article—but he told us some of the interesting things usually left out of the biographies, and we know Wordsworth the man (for instance) much more completely than we should, had De Quincey never written. I think it simply undeniable that De Quincey wrote with malice; but, unlike Hazlitt, he was never inspired by hatred.

Tastes will always differ about what may be called the gorgeous style in prose. To some people it gives

a special delight from its very rarity; in others it creates a sort of mental horripilation. Certainly, nothing fails so abjectly and detestably as fine writing that just misses success. But De Quincey rarely fails. The pages of the 'Confessions' that describe his flight from school seem to me among the triumphs of English prose for the variety of its music. I think in a staccato, rag-time age like this, a course of De Quincey, even of those tantalisingly leisured passages so condemned by your contributor, would be beneficial to all young people, if only to remind them that the best in life is missed by those in a hurry. It is a heartening fact that the SATURDAY REVIEW can open its columns to an article of such length, and a letter as comprehensively critical as "A.A.B.'s," upon a writer who is now among the "old masters."

Yours very truly,

G. S.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PAINTING.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In your number for May 3rd (p. 419) the writer of the article 'Photographic Painting' does the leading Pre-Raphaelites a singular injustice in assuming that they are what the Hon. John Collier says they are. I maintain that he is as much wrong in this as he is in his main thesis about art.

Speaking of Holman Hunt's 'Hiring Shepherd,' the writer says it is "a capital example of the futility of the Pre-Raphaelites' alleged return to nature. They returned, not to nature, but to a convention which they ignorantly conceived to be unspotted realism. . . . They enthusiastically ignored the revelations of tone, light and air (made by Constable and Hogarth) and worked by a book written long before their discoveries."

The only convention they turned to was one of sentiment—medieval sentiment. As for tone, light and air—one may add representation of surface and texture—no one has ever surpassed their best work before or since. The most cursory examination of the P.R. pictures at Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Oxford, and the Tate Gallery will prove this to anyone with an eye for nature and painting.

Where they did fail was in their failure to focus attention upon and accentuate some central point in their pictures. The result is that the eye finds no resting-place and fails to take in the picture as a whole. But what it loses in this it gains by what it finds, as it ranges in the truthful presentation of nature—not only in photographic detail, but in spirit.

Even the hideous red brick blue-slatted houses in Millais' 'Blind Girl' have a message in that they reflect the spirit of the idea in his mind, which can only be inadequately expressed in words, if it can be expressed at all.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

E. S. T.

Cairo.

THE WONDER OF JUNE.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—It has recently been said that "we can no more live without wonder than we can without thought, and he who recognizes no mystery in life can know neither its meaning nor its import."

Happy then, I take it, is the man or woman who in this most glorious month of June has had a garden, however humble, where, throwing off the daily burden of small worries and troubles, he may give himself up to the wonder and glowing rapture of a perfect June morning with its four-fold accompaniment of colour, song, movement and sweet scents, and feel himself once more in touch with the Infinite through a closer touch with the beating heart of the earth; remembering that "out of it cometh bread and under it is turned up as it were fire," that "the stones of it are as the place of sapphires and that it hath dust of gold."

Truly is there dust of the fine gold on the iridescent wings of insects, blue as the place of sapphires in the creeping Veronica and in the tall unbending Delphinium, and fire in the heart of the scarlet poppy and its scattered petals, which, flung on the cold grey stone

of the paved walks seem like a glove thrown there at your feet, to offer some strange and subtle challenge as you pass.

The air is full of sound. Bird-songs, hum of insects, whisperings with hurried passing beat of wings, and through all the questioning breath of the south wind, coming from whence? Going whither?

There are strange silences, too, moments when all Nature seems to be stilled, waiting for some greater wonder to appear; perhaps the wonder passes and is gone without our being aware, at any rate that strange silence is ever followed by an exultant chorus of worshipful song.

If to add to your delight the garden is set round with greenery, or near to some great wood "thick of trees so full of leaves," the long June evening will be made musical by nightingales, and punctuated by the persistent call of the cuckoo.

It is said that, when the world was in the making, the birds were being taught their songs in Paradise, but the cuckoo would not learn the heavenly music and kept crying "Cuckoo! Cuckoo!" at which the green woodpecker laughed, and may be heard laughing to this day. But the cuckoo is ever trying to recapture the song he refused to learn, and that is why he so often changes his note; and sometimes he who listens in the quiet woods will hear a low, crooning, most musical, liquid note. It is the cuckoo, repentant, trying to give utterance to the music he was taught in Paradise long, long ago.

BEATRICE M. BELLIN.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY AND CONSTANTINOPLE.

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Allow me to join issues with Mr. Blyton in reference to his letter of 24th May. If he is correct in saying that the two Premiers and the President take the view that the Sultan has no right in Constantinople as a political ruler, then at least two of them are paying the best compliment to the Germans by imitating them and casting their own words of honour to the winds. On 5th January, 1918, Mr. Lloyd George deliberately and definitely pledged the honour of the whole British nation in his memorable speech as to the aims of the war and said that the Turks shall be allowed to retain their homelands of Thrace and the whole of Asia Minor *with Constantinople as their capital*. President Wilson afterwards confirmed that speech.

There is no great matter of surprise if the French Foreign Office, as well as our own with Lord Curzon, are more anxious to keep the Sultan's authority and position unimpaired than the Premiers and the President. The latter have no personal knowledge of Eastern problems which Lord Curzon knows by heart. Mr. Balfour is, perhaps, as ignorant as the Premier on the subject, but his lieutenant, Lord Hardinge, is well versed in the questions affecting the East.

Who knows better than Lord Curzon and Lord Hardinge what a damaging effect, political and commercial, upon the British Empire—an Empire in the defence of which the British Muslims poured out their blood and money, will be produced, if any steps are taken to dismember the Ottoman Empire, ruled by a sovereign who, as the *Khalifa*, is loved and revered by two hundred million Muslims of the world, including sixty millions of India?

As to the last paragraph of Mr. Blyton's letter, will he agree, in the name of fairness and justice, to this proposition, that all those territories in Europe or Asia or Africa which are populated mainly by Christians should be given to Christian rulers, but *all* those which are peopled chiefly by non-Christians should be restored to non-Christian rulers? "What are we to do," Mr. Blyton asks, "if they (Christians) rise against the Ottoman officials?" The reply is self-evident. We should allow the Turks to take the *same* course as British officials have been taking these days in India and Egypt to suppress the risings.

Yours, etc.,

SHAIKH M. H. KIDWAL OF GADIA.

REVIEWS

STRIPPING KOHELETH:

A Gentle Cynic: A translation of the Book of Koheleth, known as Ecclesiastes. By Dr. Morris Jastrow, Junr. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. 9s. net.

CYNICS are they who see, or think they see, things as they are, and not as others pretend or wish to see them. A cynic is not necessarily, but is almost invariably, an agnostic, believing in nothing beyond this world, where the wise enjoyment of the day that passes is the aim of life, if aim there be. The cynic is an anti-humbler man, and therefore a paradoxist, inasmuch as his views are often the mere reverse of those of the majority. But it is not fair to describe him as a sensualist, for he is generally a man of intellectual tastes and wide reading, often austere in his habits, always too clever and refined to indulge indiscriminately in the gratification of the senses. Cynics are supposed to derive from some obscure school in Athens, about which little or nothing is known. In reality the father of cynicism was the Jewish man of letters who, under the pen-name of Koheleth, wrote the famous book called Ecclesiastes.

We agree with the Philadelphian Professor that "it is a strange book to have slipped into a sacred collection." And it is quite clear that it never would have been admitted to the canon, had it not been doctored, most unscrupulously and unskillfully doctored, by pious and orthodox "glossators," as Dr. Jastrow calls them. Stripped of these "trimmings," Koheleth's book might have been written by Marcus Aurelius, or Seneca, or Plotinus, or (to take a long jump) by La Rochefoucauld. Dr. Jastrow makes sad havoc with the authorship of all the books of what he calls, *more Americano*, the O.T. We think he proves that the very idea of individual authorship is comparatively modern; and that to suppose Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Solomon, or David, to be the authors of the books ascribed to them is historical ignorance of a puerile degree. Koheleth is placed, conclusively it seems to us, between the return from the captivity, *circa* 500 B.C., and the book of Jesus Ben Sira, known as Ecclesiasticus, in 180 B.C. Why Ecclesiasticus is apocryphal and Ecclesiastes canonical it would puzzle anyone to say, except that the doctoring process had been more skilfully and extensively applied to Koheleth than to Ben Sira. Dr. Jastrow tells us that the tinkering with Koheleth's book by the insertion of pious platitudes as an antidote to the author's audacious hedonism had been going on for about two centuries, until at the end of the first century of the Christian era this Greek translation, under the title of Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, was admitted to the canon by the Rabbis at Jamnia. The volume before us is a translation by a professor of Philadelphia University, sometimes of the original Hebrew, and sometimes of the Greek translation, with all interpolations and glosses and insertions relegated to notes. Dr. Jastrow brings to his readers much learning and ingenuity: he brushes aside, with erudite good humour, the idea that King Solomon was, or could have been, the author of Ecclesiastes, or The Song of Solomon, or Proverbs, any more than King David could have written the Psalms. All these books are dated by strong internal evidence long after the kingly personages, by whom they were supposed to be written. "I was King over Israel" the Professor regards as a mere literary trick on the part of Koheleth to conceal his identity, much as the Eikon Basilike pretended to speak as Charles I. We are not ungrateful to Dr. Jastrow, who really has rendered great service to Biblical literature. But we do not like some of his translations; we prefer the authorised version. With all respect to the Professor seventeenth century English is better than modern American.

We prefer "vanity and vexation of spirit" to "vanity and chasing after wind," but it may be familiarity or the love of alliteration. But what does the reader think of the following? "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all

things that are done under heaven; this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith" is translated "And I applied my mind to seek and explore everything under the sun, a sorry business which God hath given the children of men for their affliction." Again: "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth," is rendered by the Philadelphian doctor, "I said to myself, come I'll make a test of pleasure and of having a good time"! It may be true that the original Hebrew "looking upon good" is a perfect equivalent to the American slang "having a good time," and it is a proper subject for a footnote: but that is no excuse for inserting a modern colloquialism in the text. We tremble to think what our Philadelphian might do with Shakespeare if he were to lay hands on Falstaff and render his quips and cranks into their perfect equivalents in American.

One good service Dr. Jastrow does render us in this process of stripping Koheleth. Most admirers of Ecclesiastes have been astonished at the barbarous and frequent transitions from sharp to flat; at the dilution of pregnant apothegms with pointless antitheses; and at the obvious correction of some biting cynicism by a pious platitude. Dr. Jastrow shows us exactly where these conventional interpolations by orthodox Rabbis have been made. Whenever the old cynic goes a little too far, the hand of the Synagogue hastily inserts, "fear God, and keep His commandments," with so little art as to excite a smile. The verses V. and VI. in the fourth chapter, "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. Better is an handful with quietness than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit" obviously contradict one another, and the first is clearly an insertion by a Sunday-school teacher. The most stupid of these "fakes" is the expansion of the solemn antithesis "there is a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted" into a tiresome series of twelve pointless antitheses, ("a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together," etc., etc.). Perhaps, as the doctor suggests, it was a joke played by some young rabbi, or perhaps it was a misunderstanding of Koheleth's predestined time for a proper time. Occasionally, we are obliged to say, it is Dr. Jastrow who is ridiculous, not the "glossators." We are told in a foot-note, a kind of aside from the professor who knows Wall Street, that "cast thy bread upon the waters" is "a bit of shrewd advice to take risks in business," and "that 'bread' does not refer specifically to the corn trade, but is used for 'goods' in general." Dear, dear, who would have thought it? But we can more easily forgive an absurdity of this kind than the professor's exegesis of the last and most famous chapter, which is shocking. We hardly need to be told that this most justly celebrated piece of poetical prose ends with the seventh verse, and that the next seven verses are a pious postscript, rather impudently added by mother synagogue. But what are we to say to a long and learned dissertation to prove that the exquisite verses beginning, "in the days when the keepers of the house shall tremble" are an allegorical description of the decay of the mental and physical powers in old age? According to the Talmud, so we are told, "and the grinders cease because they are few" does refer to the teeth, though why they should be called "daughters of music" we don't know, unless it refers to the roaring of tooth-ache. "The silver cord" is the spine, and "the golden bowl" is the brain, and "the pitcher at the fountain"—but no, we refuse to proceed with the anatomical catalogue. It is horrible, horrible!

READING FOR EVERYBODY.

How and What to Read: Suggestions Towards a Home Library. By Reginald R. Buckley. Williams and Norgate. 2s. 6d. net.

Il faut se borner: that maxim of Napoleon occurs to us when we read a book like this, which gives advice on more subjects than any man can grasp for himself in fifty years of hard reading. Not even Dr. Saintsbury would move with confidence in all the regions which Mr. Buckley has attempted to cover in

176 pages. No wise reader would wish to possess anything like the general, all-round selection of books here exhibited. Everyone should have, like Lamb, his *biblia abiblia* which he leaves alone, and no critic of the first mark would care to produce so universal a guide.

We know nothing of Mr. Buckley, beyond the news on the paper cover of his book that he "was for five years assistant editor of a well-known literary weekly, and is both by sympathy and training well fitted for his task." His preface mentions help in some sections, but he has not had enough. He adds that he will welcome criticism from professional or general readers. As we call ourselves both, we will supply some.

Mr. Buckley not only covers a dozen subjects of first rate importance, but supplies also the fiction suitable to illustrate each. There are some cross-references in his lists, and we may have missed an item or two, but we find some odd gaps in the fiction aforesaid. Why omit that excellent source of adventure the northern part of the American Continent? Neither Mark Twain nor the fiction of Frank Norris should be ignored under the United States, and Marcus Clarke's 'For the Term of His Natural Life' is missed under Australia.

In the section of History, 'The Martyrdom of Man,' by Winwood Reade (18th edition, 1910), should have been included, for it is much more attractive than most historical books. Among the historical fiction, Bulwer Lytton's 'The Last of the Barons' should certainly appear. Mr. Buckley, when he comes to the Near East, ignores all the first-rate observation and literary craft of Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, nor have we discovered a classic like 'Hajji Baba.' The 'Kriegspiel' of that remarkable genius, F. H. Groome, deserves mention as well as his 'In Gipsy Tents.' A plain book like 'Flowers of the Field,' should be mentioned under 'Botany and Nature Study,' and we are surprised to see no book by Mr. W. H. Hudson. Grant Allen's 'In Nature's Workshop' is better written and more interesting than many pretentious modern books which go in for "fine writing."

Nietzsche's accomplishments are said to "belong more to philology and art than to philosophy," and his first big work is given as 'Thus Spake Zarathustra.' Neither of these statements is, we think, correct. Nietzsche's views on philology and art are nothing compared with his reputation as an immoralist philosopher. 'Zarathustra,' at any rate, is so mystical in form as to be of little use to the reader in search of tendencies. By far the best book on the history of religion is the brief, but brilliant 'Orpheus' of M. Salomon Reinach. The fiction concerning the Free Churches is confined to "Q's" book on Harriet [Hetty] Wesley. The best writer among recent Wesleyans is Mark Guy Pearse. The 'Salem Chapel' of Mrs. Oliphant and some of Mark Rutherford's books should certainly have been mentioned. Instead of Epicurus, whose original work, so far as it exists, is not suitable for the general reader, we should put Epictetus, whose philosophy in a larger and a shorter form is available in more than one capable translation. Pater wrote, more or less, on Epicurus. So he is put in.

When we come to the 'Classics in English,' we are glad to find Mr. Buckley commending the study of translations, but we have no faith in the merits of his survey. Horace is called a "Liberian Ritualist"; his wisdom and good sense are ignored. "Let us say that Horace was Omar, and Virgil the poet of daily life, and of national destiny." We should not say anything of the kind. Horace was a great patriotic poet as well as an elegant trifler. Mr. Buckley should look at the third book of the Odes, which has as much of the Roman spirit as Virgil, and a great sense of national destiny. A little knowledge is dangerous. "The very spirit and body of the time," we read, "is gathered up in the Greek Anthology." What "spirit," and what "time"? There is practically nothing concerning Greek political ideas in the 'Anthology,' and it covers a Byzantine period when Athens (which is most people's idea of ancient Greece) had long faded. We learn that "we have nothing at all of Meleager." Perhaps Mr. Buckley means Menander, but either is wrong. Meleager is just about the most distinguished writer in the whole of the 'Anthology,' and he has

been frequently translated. Mr. Buckley might revise his absurd statement that "Athena loves Hippolytus, a mortal, and, through unrequited love, prepares vengeance." In the play of Euripides, Athena does not figure; Artemis and Aphrodite are the goddesses concerned; and the latter objects to being called the worst of goddesses by Hippolytus, who is a type of the spiritual prig. This is the mainspring of the play; Phædra supplies the love interest, not a goddess. It is news to us that the 'Œdipus' of Sophocles ('Œdipus Rex,' 'Antigone,' and 'Œdipus at Colonus') formed a trilogy, as all three plays are different in date. There was some thirty years between the 'Antigone,' the first in date, though not in natural order, and the 'Œdipus at Colonus,' nor could this last run on naturally from either of its predecessors. The "kind of friendship which made Cicero the man he was," is hardly, perhaps, a good advertisement for the 'De Amicitia.' Instead of writing vague or picturesque generalities, Mr. Buckley should have mentioned some brief and expert survey, like Mr. W. G. de Burgh's 'The Legacy of Greece and Rome' (1912). Similarly, if you are going to read fiction with any sense of historic continuity, Sir Walter Raleigh's little manual on 'The English Novel' should be used.

Altogether we prefer to this pretentious book a frankly circumscribed record like Mr. Blatchford's of 'My Favourite Books.' We find some happy comments and good selections in Mr. Buckley's volume; also some reflections which we regard as uninformative or worse. We should certainly not speak of "the clear and decisive prose of Emerson," nor should we be so blind to human wisdom as to think "superior journeyman work" a good description of 'The Lives of the Poets.'

It would have been well to add a separate list of fiction worth reading, which does not fall under any special section, e.g., such books as 'Hard Cash,' and 'What Will He Do With It.' Other books defy headings like 'The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft,' but are none the less prized by judicious readers. We gather that the rising democracy has taken to Plato's 'Republic,' and we hope it may profit thereby—without proceeding to lecture on it. The 'Home University Library' includes some excellent volumes which are at once expert writing and good reading. But there is a good deal of indifferent stuff about, which we see no reason to commend. Literature is not a "giddy paragon," and short cuts to knowledge lead to a false sense of mastery and an easy dogmatism, like that of the ægelastic Mr. Smillie. Lowett, looking up blankly from the study of a young man's Greek iambs, ejaculated, "Have you any taste for mathematics?" After reading Mr. Buckley on the ancient classics, we suspect that he has a special taste for civics.

ULSTER BEFORE THE PLANTATION.

Elizabethan Ulster. By Lord Ernest Hamilton. Hurst & Blackett. 16s. net.

THE history of Ireland which can be read and remembered by ordinary people has yet to be written, quite apart from racial or religious prejudices. Main currents may be seen in its course, but they are effectually disguised by myriads of tiny whirlpools, moving in all directions. The power of England, constantly exercised under the earlier Plantagenets, and reduced to a nullity under the Houses of Lancaster and York, made itself felt under the early Tudors and became the paramount force of a hundred jarring forces under Elizabeth. No doubt something can be done to make a readable book by judicious simplification, by omitting most of the facts and supplying their place with rhetoric, and it has been done, but the result is not history.

The history of Ulster is even more obscure than that of any other part of Ireland. In mediæval times it was a sort of palatinate jurisdiction, thus cutting off any great appearance in the records at Dublin, such as existed for other parts of the country. It suffered the brunt of the Scotch invasions, while the country itself was barren, a land of mountains, bogs, and woods.

When the Tudors began to extend their rule to Ireland, it was the last part of the country to come under their observation.

The chief power in Ulster then was that of the O'Neill, who held it in virtue of his descent from the more or less legendary Niall of the Nine Hostages, a fourth century ruler of Ireland. The O'Neill was elected from the family of his predecessor and installed on the Leac-na-Righ, a coronation stone which stood on a little hill at Tullahogue, near Cookstown in Tyrone. His coronation invested him with a semi-divine status: he had absolute power over the life, limb, and property of his tribesmen, and so sacred was his person to them that no reward could induce one of them to injure or betray him. His rule extended directly over Armagh, Tyrone and Derry, and he exercised an indefinite supremacy over the MacMahons of Monaghan, the Maguires of Fermanagh, and the O'Caahans of Derry, his tribe occupied Antrim, and he contested the lordship of Inishowen. But his power was not hereditary, private ownership of land did not exist, and his control over his swordsmen was precarious. The O'Donnells of Tyrconnell and a Highland settlement of McDonalds on the N.W. coast were independent of the O'Neills.

It was the policy of Henry VIII. to convert the Irish chieftains into feudal subjects of the crown, to confer the private ownership of the tribal lands on them, substituting (greatly to the advantage of the cultivators) a rent system for "the evil practices of Coyne, Livery, and Bonaght," and to make succession hereditary. In pursuance of this policy Con Bacagh was created Earl Tyrone in 1543 with special remainder to his eldest son Matthew, a bastard. This surrender of lands not his to give was never recognised by his tribe, and, with the disputed claim of his legitimate son Shane, was the cause of the wars in Ulster and the ruin of the O'Neills. Religion added its bitterness with the Jesuit conversion of Ireland.

From this point Lord Ernest takes up the story and whirls us through a giddy maze of murders, raids, and rebellions with practised skill. His book is founded mainly on State papers checked and controlled by the Four Masters and other annalists. Except the proclamations, he seems to have consulted every available source of information, and to have summarised the results in a fair and masterly way. Every student of the history of Ulster must obtain this most valuable handbook. The publishers have, however, been so remiss as to send it out without either an index or even a table of contents.

A FRIEND.

Dr. John Fothergill and his Friends: Chapters in Eighteenth Century Life. By R. Hingston Fox, M.D. Macmillan & Co. 21s. net.

THE general reader who knows no more of Dr. John Fothergill than that he was a Quaker physician who practised in London during the latter part of the eighteenth century, should not be deterred by these apparently dull facts from taking in hand this admirably written, scholarly, and thoroughly interesting book. For Dr. Fothergill was a man of wide sympathies, which, no less than his leading position as a practitioner, brought him into contact with all sorts and conditions of men, both in the old world and the new. The love of his fellows, innate, but strengthened by his upbringing as a Friend, was not merely manifested in a kindness to many of his poorer patients that went far beyond the duties of a physician, but expressed itself in schemes of practical philanthropy, some of immediate benefit, others coming to fruition in a later day, and stretched yet further into the political troubles of the time, where his influence was directed, not wholly without effect, towards peace, progress, and reform.

This is not the place in which to dwell on the purely medical aspect of Fothergill's career; the early days of the famous Edinburgh school; the foundation of the Medical Society (1752); the Society of (Licentiate) Physicians (1767) and its fight with the Royal College; and the Medical Society of London (1773); the epidemics of scarlatina and influenza, and his enlightened methods

of treatment. Professional men already know Dr. Hingston Fox as a learned and lucid historian of such matters. A livelier interest attaches to the story of inoculation for small-pox, which introduces us to Dr. Thomas Dimsdale, who travelled to St. Petersburg in courageous acceptance of a summons to inoculate the Empress Catherine II. and her family as an example to the whole Russian nation. The risk to his own life in case of failure was great; but he succeeded, was loaded with riches and honour, and created a Baron of the Empire. His intimate and vivid account of the great Empress shows that the situation brought out all the more admirable qualities of that remarkable woman. The wealth thus acquired was used by Dimsdale on his return to London in founding the well-known bank that bears his name.

Through Dimsdale, himself of Quaker origin, we bridge the gulf between Catherine and the Quakers, whose history during the life of their prominent member Fothergill is related by Dr. Fox with abundant knowledge and sympathy. It was through the members of the Quaker colony founded by William Penn, and more than once visited by his own father and younger brother as preachers, that Fothergill came into close touch with American affairs and feeling. This, coupled with a community of scientific interest, led to an intimate friendship with Benjamin Franklin. In the struggles of Pennsylvania with its autocratic but absentee proprietors, the sons of Penn, and later in the revolt of the colonies, the influence of Fothergill was, as always, on the side of liberty combined with order, and his counsels were for a firm yet temperate assertion of rights. The story of the repeated attempts made by Franklin, Fothergill, and David Barclay to induce a spirit of conciliation in the British Government loses none of its dramatic interest from our knowledge of their destined failure, and the facts here ably assembled are well worth the attention of historians.

"The great business of man as a member of society," said Dr. Fothergill, "is to be as useful to it as possible in whatsoever department he may be stationed," and to that end we find him constantly employing his influence and his practical interest. It is enough here to mention his foundation of Ackworth School, his help of John Woolman in his crusade against slavery, of John Howard in his fight for prison reform, his attempt to set up a national system of vital statistics, his still-used recipe for war bread, his transport of fish by land to London, and his various plans for the reform and reconstruction of that then ill-paved and insanitary city. Or, turning to the subjects in which he sought recreation from strenuous labour, we find him, like his friend Peter Collinson, forming a garden at Upton (now West Ham Park) for the introduction of rare plants, especially new species which might be useful in medicine or for food. His collectors William Bartram and Humphry Marshall in North America, Brass in West Africa, Menzies in the Alps, and the sea captains whose aid he enlisted, brought him rarities from all quarters of the globe. A list of a hundred plants that we owe to him is given by Dr. Fox.

But let us not forget "his friends." Here you will find full-length portraits of the afore-mentioned antiquarian, botanist, and horticulturist. Peter Collinson, honoured of Mill Hillians, of his collectors, of the two Bartrams; of David Barclay the second; and of the humane and very human Dr. Lettsom (a delightful chapter.) Then there are sketches of medical friends in this country, and of others who inaugurated, with Fothergill's help, the teaching of medicine in America. We meet again with the great and friendly Linnaeus, with Sir Hans Sloane, 88 years old and still enjoying his collections, with Lhuyd's correspondent, the brilliant but erratic Emmanuel Mendez da Costa; with Priestley, who was aided in his investigations of the air by Fothergill; with Anthony Purver, the poor schoolmaster of Andover, who translated the Bible—published at Fothergill's expense—with Smeathman who first told incredulous science the marvellous tale of the white ants, married a princess of New Guinea, and gave us the passion-flower *Smeathmannia*. Enough! The Index contains over 800 names. Let us end with

the greatest of them—Benjamin Franklin, who wrote of his long-time friend: "If we may estimate the goodness of a man by his disposition to do good, and his constant endeavour and success in doing it, I can hardly conceive that a better man has ever existed."

APOSTOLIC OR DEMOCRATIC?

The Church and the Ministry. By Charles Gore, D.D. New and Revised Edition. Longmans. 18s. net.

WHEN it was proposed at Oxford some years ago to throw open Divinity doctorates and examinerships, a leading case for the change was that of Mr. Cuthbert Turner of Magdalen, and it was the more amusing when he mounted the Sheldonian rostrum to make a racy speech against the proposal. Mr. Turner is a most erudite lay theologian, and the Bishop of Oxford was fortunate in finding so competent a reviser of his important treatise of thirty years ago. The Bishop is a fervent demophile and Mr. Turner ranks usually as a Liberal; so that their elaborately demonstrated disproof of a democratic basis of Church government exhibits scholarship in its most candid aspect. Democracy does not, as is so often thoughtlessly supposed, mean popular sympathies, but popular government; and whatever co-operation in ecclesiastical affairs the christened folk have a right to give—the Bishop of Oxford has always placed it very high—this book is a learned refutation of the doctrine of the Long Parliament that "the people is, under God, the origin of all just power" as applied to the Church of Christ. Democracy, after all, means by "the people" a majority of the people, and the Bishop of Oxford only the other day was passionately asserting the contemptuous attitude of Christianity and of its Founder towards majorities.

There can only be two theories of the Church, the one which conceives it as prior to its members, a Kingdom come down from God out of heaven, "given" to men and "taking them up," writes the Bishop, "one by one, into its holy and blessed fellowship," and the other which regards it as constituted by its adherents, who have associated themselves together voluntarily, have defined their common creed and appointed a ministerial committee to act for them and with their authority. The latter, the nominalist or *contrat social* conception of religion fits in with Anglo-Saxon political ideas and modern tendencies. It is to-day the usual Protestant view. The former or Catholic standpoint, deriving all commission and authority from above by transmission, is hard bested to hold its own against the republican spirit of the age. Lord Haldane denounced it the other day as claiming a different basis for the Church than the will of the people. The Bishop of Oxford finds, however, a *modus* between the two views. Apostolic succession enshrines the Gospel principle of a Divine bestowal, communicated to man and not originated by him. "A once-for-all delivered Faith and Grace associates itself naturally with a once-for-all instituted Society and a once-for-all established Ministry. . . . The Church is represented to us as a great spiritual hierarchy of graduated orders and powers, in which every member has his own position and functions by Divine appointment, and each class is, not self-constituted, but instituted and empowered by God." On the other hand, the Bishop—albeit he does not, like some facile divines, think less of Leviticus than of Numbers—is jealous for the popular element in Christianity, pointing out (or is it Mr. Turner?) that in everything sacramental the material which is to receive the heavenly impress is offered for such consecration from below—a living, vital, co-operation with God, not dead weight.

Similarly there can be only two theories of the Ministry. Either it is derived downwards and sacramentally by a perpetuated apostolic succession, or else, at some stage or period, the Christian people must have themselves ordained, or, perhaps, appointed a lay ordaining committee. No third explanation is possible, for it is irrelevant to this point whether the transmission should be through bishops or presbyters. Dr. Gore, indeed, urges that, if presbyters ever had ordaining powers, these must have been conferred on

them, and so made them bishops *eo ipso*. This is with special reference to the "presbyter-bishops" of Alexandria, a case which Mr. Turner carefully examines. The general question is complicated by the expression "organs of the Christian people." *The Times* is the organ of Lord Northcliffe, the *Licensed Victuallers Gazette* of the Trade. The organ voices the sentiments of those who have created it for the purpose. But the organ of a body is given to it, not evolved by it, and the Christian Church, Christ's Body, is an organism, not an organization. Even more ambiguous is the phrase "a representative priesthood." Moreover "organ" and "representative" only cover one side of ministerial office, the functioning, towards God. On the manward side it is described as an ambassadorship, a shepherdship, a teaching, a key-bearing stewardship of mysteries, an overseership, a ministry of reconciliation. As the Father apostled the Christ, even so sent He His apostles, appointing unto them a Kingdom (*i.e.*, monarchy), even as the Father had appointed unto Him. "The theory," says Godet, "which makes the pastorate emanate from the Church as its representative is not Scriptural."

Whig or parliamentary preconceptions, however, are so ingrained in the English mind that a social compact basis of the Church is constantly assumed. And recent discussions about "Church franchise" have revelled, *more Britannico*, in the details of electoral rolls, returning officers, voting qualifications, mandates from constituencies, and the rest. Yet few have cared to carry out the democratic principle of "One man (or one woman) one vote" logically, for there is always some supposition of religious fitness, loyalty, and competence to be required of those who share in the government of the spiritual Kingdom, whereas in a pure democracy the opinion of a fool, or a rogue, or a courtesan, counts for just as much as that of a saint or a sage, and everyone who has a vote is expected to exercise it. The modern State aims at freedom of self-determination, but the City of God at conformity to His Kingly will.

The naturalistic or evolutionary theory of Church life is not necessarily irreligious, for it assumes a providential guiding, and a divinity immanent in historic events. But it ignores the special idea of the "Christian Verity," which postulates an invasion from the supernatural sphere of a remedial and regenerative Force and the necessity for mankind of a re-creation, a new birth from above. The doctrine of apostolic transmission or descent is commonly confused with that of the "form of Church government" or "ecclesiastical polity." Diocesan moniscopacy is not of the *esse* but only of the *bene esse* of the Church, and may well have taken a generation or more to evolve fully. There was a grim and biting pleasantry of Liddon's that episcopacy must be the former, as it is certainly not the latter. But by episcopacy being essential he meant the perpetuation through the ages of Christ's ambassadorial authority in an apostolic Order commissioned from above, and not having its source in the will of the people. Was there ever an age in which it was not the first obligation of Christianity to go counter to the spirit of that age? As Creighton once said, "It is the duty of the newspapers to tell us what we ought to do, and it is our duty not to do it."

A NOVEL OF MODERN INDIA.

The Home and the World. By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. Macmillan. 6s. net.

THE "unchanging East" is changing rapidly, and for the average Englishman is losing all its glamour in the process. But it is the weakness of the average Englishman to recognise romance only in things remote and largely unintelligible. The writer who can show him the poetic value in things present and well known is welcome as the worker of a healing miracle. Sir Rabindranath Tagore does this for us. In 'The Home and the World,' he has succeeded in raising the social and political ferment of Modern India to the high poetic plane without the least suppression of the truth, by force of vision.

A Rajah educated in the English way, his young wife whom he has indoctrinated with his views, and Sandip Babu, an old fellow student of the Rajah's, who has become a leader of the fervent nationalists, are the chief characters. The narrative is written by these three in turn, so that their various points of view become apparent without set explanation or analysis. The Rajah, Nikhil, has adopted what is good in modern thought, including the idea of woman's freedom. When Sandip Babu comes to live in his house, he allows his wife free intercourse with that incendiary, even after he has become aware of her infatuation with him. He is profoundly in love with his wife; yet he thinks it his duty to bring himself to the point of liberating her. He strongly disapproves of the political activities of Sandip Babu, which include intimidation of the peasantry, yet he lets his wife approve, and even in a measure share in those activities, true to the new ideas of women's functions in the world, as he conceives them. The wife, who for nine years had lived contented with her husband, succumbs completely to the eloquence of Sandip, the first time she hears him speak before a multitude. The new ideas which her husband had been careful to inculcate—ideas of liberty and public service—suddenly take life and colour, as if the sun had risen on them. Sandip Babu has adopted what is bad in modern thought deliberately and with zest intending to take fitting vengeance for his country by using their own weapons and ideas against the English, enjoying himself meanwhile. He proclaims aloud that he has no morals, no pity, no modesty. Yet—and this is a very subtle touch of portraiture—he finds himself restrained at crucial moments by the very principles which he exultantly repudiates. Thus he fails to take full advantage of Bimala's passion for him, though he is always brutally announcing his intention to do so. He is a *poseur* through and through—a *poseur* of such violence as is only to be found in Eastern lands, just sufficiently unscrupulous and cruel in his actions to shake the faith of his beloved and eventually disgust her, compelling her to realise that he is not what her husband is essentially—a gentleman.

These three and several minor characters—an old tutor, and an inspired boy patriot (the last more fairly typical than Sandip of Indian nationalism)—are admirably drawn; and in the course of the story of their intercourse with one another, the reader gets poetic vision of the forces which are changing India, and the change itself. The East embraces our ideas, but it is always with a difference, and that difference is intensely Oriental.

In these days of indiscriminating praise, it is hard for a reviewer to find words with which to welcome properly a book so good as this.

A MODERN INSTANCE?

The Price of Things. By Elinor Glyn. Duckworth. 7s. net.

THERE is a hint of Juvenal about Mrs. Glyn's latest theme—the supposed necessity of securing an heir for a childless baronet about to face the hazards of Armageddon. But in deference to modern prejudices the expedient employed for that purpose is devised by the warrior in question and carried out through an amicable arrangement with a cousin somewhat resembling him without the connivance of the third person concerned. That this lady's feeling towards her husband on learning the truth should be the reverse of affectionate is only what the ordinary reader would naturally expect. That she should fall passionately in love with his fellow conspirator is not quite so comprehensible. The convenient war arranges all things after her desire. She is left a widow, and the man of her choice is incapacitated by a severe wound from returning to the Front. The story only comes down to the beginning of 1916, and leaves the couple in a condition of idyllic happiness which does not lack such accessories as perfect tea-gowns and a table free from any suspicion of rationing. There is an underplot in which the principal characters are a Russian with views on re-incarnation, and a female of Transatlantic origin,

who meets her death as a spy in German employment. The glaring unreality of the main subject is not redeemed by any subtlety in psychological analysis; and there is less smart writing than in previous works by the same author. But we are not stinted in melodrama or in sentiment—of sorts.

SPANISH, OR ENGLISH?

Heritage. By V. Sackville-West. Collins. 6s. net.

THE author, by the mouth of one of her characters, describes this story as cumbersome and disjointed; and we agree that she has chosen a method of narration which is neither convenient nor effective. We are seldom allowed a direct view of the drama, which is retailed to us mainly in oblique oration, and even so, not at first hand. Mallory, the hero, confides his experiences to a masculine acquaintance (curiously denied the title of friend), who repeats them interspersed with his own reflections. Later, the confidant visits the scene of action in person, and takes a hand in trying to arrange the complications which have arisen. Finally, Mallory himself, in "a letter one hundred and fifty pages long," again takes up the tale and brings it to a conclusion. The theme presented in this curious fashion is ostensibly the influence of mixed blood upon character, as illustrated by the daughter of a Sussex farmer, whose mother had danced for a living at Cadiz. But this young lady's behaviour does not, in our opinion, betray any unmistakable evidence of her Spanish descent. It is no strange thing for a woman of any race to marry the wrong man, when the right one has not declared himself; and there is nothing un-English in the heroine's long-maintained and stoical endurance of domestic unhappiness, nor perhaps in the sudden resolution to regard her husband's desertion as practically equivalent to a divorce. The author shews some mastery of words and has skilfully accentuated the contrast between two widely differing types—the rather over-cultured, and the simple.

AN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE.

The Two Crossings of Madge Swallue. By Henri Davignon. English version by Tita Brand Cammaerts. John Lane. 5s. net.

THE story of Madge Swallue, the English wife of a Belgian who fell in the autumn of 1914, is founded, we are told, on fact; and in many of its details it carries conviction. It is written, naturally, from the Belgian point of view, but in a spirit of half-amused and half-admiring affection for English custom and character. The author approves our open fire-places, with their fresher atmosphere, and is not averse to our predilection for beginning the day with a substantial meal. We have met with Belgian architects who hoped to introduce the first of these institutions into their own country. With regard to the second, we have reason to fear that the baconless breakfast of wartime proved a sad disappointment to many refugees who found hospitality in English homes. We have an amiable and entertaining description of Madge's wedding written by her father-in-law, the director of the Gruuthuse Museum at Bruges, who enjoys himself, on the whole, very much. He is prepared to find a married man in his host, the bride's episcopal uncle, and is whole-heartedly charmed by the "bishoppess." But he receives a severe shock when she reveals herself as a sympathiser with the suffragettes, to whose machinations he is inclined to attribute the throwing of the traditional old shoe, which to him appears in the light of an insult. Our own private difficulty on the

occasion is to understand how an Anglican Bishop could thus give official sanction to the marriage of his niece with a Roman Catholic. Though devoted to her husband, Madge chafes against the limitations of Flemish social and family life, and through the tranquil exercise of will-power (a national characteristic, according to Monsieur Davignon) transfers the young ménage to her native country. Yet when the war breaks out and she is left a widow, she returns, despite every obstacle, to her father-in-law's house, determined that her child shall be Belgian rather than English in nationality. We forbear to inquire whether her purpose this time remained unshaken. It is a graceful story, not wanting in humour.

THE WHITE MAN AND THE RED

Out of the Silences. By Mary E. Waller. Melrose. 6s. net.

THE action of this story oscillates between an Indian reservation in Manitoba and an Indian reservation in Dakota. Its chief interest is in the author's knowledge of Red Indian customs. Bill Plunket, the rough diamond unavoidable in transatlantic fiction, a saddler married to an Indian squaw, adopts the hero of the book, Bob Collamore, and brings him up with preternatural wisdom. Bob fraternises with the red skins and becomes as one of them, so much so that the reader feels quite disappointed when he leaves them and their jolly forests to seek his fortune grimly in the white man's way. The White Man is the villain of the Indian tragedy, for ever pushing the unlucky "pesky varmint" out of lands reserved to them to forests more remote, as yet uncoveted. In a few years the forests where they led their happy life are felled, the land is ploughed and fenced, delivered over to the exploitation of the land-shark. The author makes all that so clear to us that Bob's departure for the white man's country seems a base desertion; nor does his return after twenty years in order to persuade his Indian friends to volunteer with him to fight the white man's battles and die with him upon the fields of France strike us as quite so noble as the author thinks it.

The book, as we have said, is disappointing, the promise of the opening chapters being unfulfilled.

THE HERO AS PHILANDERER.

The Education of a Philanderer. By S. P. B. Mais. Grant Richards. 7s. net.

THIS novel, by its title and the nature of its subject, seems to challenge a comparison with Flaubert, but it is nearer the style of Mr. H. G. Wells. Rupert, the hero, is the son of a poor parson, who becomes an usher in a preparatory school, then goes to Oxford by the benefaction of an uncle, gets his "blue" for running, and afterwards is able to become a master in a famous public school. But his scholastic career is incidental to his chosen pastime of philandering. Wherever he happens to be—even in the little place in Derbyshire of which his father is rector—he takes up with some girl in an inferior station, with whom he sits about in parks or woods at night, content to hold the object in his arms and press his lips to hers "continuously." Once even after a village "social," he philanders in this manner on the sofa in the rectory drawing-room, having introduced the object surreptitiously after his parents had gone to bed. Yet he is able to say later, when excusing his taste for maids of low degree, that he had never "wronged" one of them. That is reckoned as a point in his favour. The only woman of his own class who attracts him strongly is the wife of

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one of his colleagues, an untidy student who encourages the friendship, pleased that his wife should have somebody to take her out. The friends fall desperately in love. They are going to elope together, but a farmer's daughter, with whom he has all the while been philandering, imposes herself on the young man. She leads him such a life as cures him in the end of his favourite habit.

Men with such tastes and limitations do exist, though at times we are bewildered by some word applied to Rupert, too good for such a character, which suggests that he is meant for admiration. The attraction he possessed for girls of all conditions is not at all conveyed. An old school-fellow meeting him in after life remarks that he was "a bit of a worm" at school, and seems astonished at the change in him. For us he is "a bit of a worm" to the end, lacking the sense of humour which alone could save him. But his author, though taking him, it seems to us, too seriously, has made of his adventures quite an interesting book, faithful to life in many of its passages.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

THE DEATH OF TURNUS: OBSERVATIONS ON THE TWELFTH BOOK OF THE ÆNEID. By W. Warde Fowler. Oxford, Blackwell, 6s. net. This, the third of Dr. Warde Fowler's studies on the Æneid, is, like its predecessors, full of interesting points and suggestions. Dr. Fowler has a much wider range than the usual commentator, though we are a little surprised to find that he owes to the reminder of a friend a reference to so well-known an essay as that of Myers. He prints a text of the Twelfth Æneid, but does not give, as he did in 'Virgil's Gathering of the Clans,' an English rendering by the side of it. Yet surely a text alone is easily accessible, and there is still some need to save paper. "Pubentes" (l. 221) is preferred to "tabentes," because, for one reason, the latter suggests a "dirty condition." The foot-note quotes two passages from the Æneid which bear that sense. But the latter is "tabum," and there is "tabes" in Æneid VI, 442. Does Dr. Fowler find anything dirty in the line, "hic, quos durus amor crudeli tabe peredit"? Nettleship, as is remarked, wrote the commentary on the Twelfth Æneid in Conington's edition; but Conington translated the whole of Virgil into prose, and has given the sense of "diripere" in l. 283, as Dr. Fowler might have noted, since Nettleship has another view. A note of eleven lines on "litotes," with a reference to a "not bad" shot at golf is elementary, and a waste of time and paper. Jane Austen might have been cited, for she made admirable play with this idiom.

We are glad to be reminded that Gray's "mute inglorious Milton" is derived from a line in the Twelfth Æneid, also to see two charming lines from Scott illustrating Virgil's study of rising youth. Dr. Fowler is less happy on ll. 113-5. The horses of the sun breathing light from their nostrils are taken and improved, as he says, from Ennius. Then Henry is quoted to show that Marlowe used this passage of Virgil, and Dr. Fowler adds facts concerning Marlowe's education known, we should have thought, to every man of letters. He further remarks that Marlowe's "contemporary Shakespeare had less knowledge of the classics, and happily for us abandoned the old and well-worn figure for one that now seems far more beautiful:

But look the morn in russet mantle clad
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastern hill."

But Shakespeare did not abandon the horses of the sun. We recommend Dr. Fowler to go to 'Romeo and Juliet,' and listen to the beginning of Act II., Scene II.

On l. 648 Dr. Fowler tells us that "nescius" is a harder and more intellectual word than "inscius," and that the latter sometimes even suggests stupefaction. "Stupet inscius," indeed, occurs twice elsewhere in the Æneid; but the adjective suggests the cause for the stupefaction; there is no proof that it means it. Some weight, further, might be given to the plain reason that "stupet nescius" would not scan. In matters of feeling like this it does not do to be dogmatic. Dr. Fowler appears to us occasionally to lack that modesty in expressing his views which belongs to the true scholar. He has done so much for Virgil that he can afford to do without abusing other scholars for their stupidity. We notice that on l. 175 he wonders whether a SATURDAY REVIEWER has "any personal acquaintance with Servius." Well; as Johnson said, he may wonder.

LONDON AT A GLANCE. George Philip & Son. 1s. 6d. net. Here are twenty "picture maps," which, covering the districts of most importance in London, give an idea of the look of the larger buildings, railway stations, etc., and will thus make the general lie of the streets easier to grasp. Apart from visitors, the ignorance of the average Londoner concerning any region beyond that he is obliged to know is surprising. We have met a man twenty years in London who had never been in the Strand. This series of maps should be a considerable help, though they do not deal with byways and crossways, which are often confusing.

The selection of districts is well made, e.g., we find a map of 'Kensington and the Museums' and another of 'Brompton and Chelsea,' which on the riverside have no railway stations to help the wayfarer who is "ignarus locorum." An excellent idea is the map which gives a clear view of the position of Theatres and

Music Halls with Tube Stations. Not quite all of them can be included in one map, but it is easy to remember the houses of entertainment which are next to Victoria and Sloane Square Stations. The difficulty comes with newer theatres like the Ambassadors and St. Martin's, which are in a side street and can be recognised in a moment on this map. Messrs. Philip have done a real service to the endless visitors of London. Even before the war there were a crowd of them, asking the way. An American once put a question to a Londoner concerning one of the more obscure streets, and the following dialogue took place:—"I don't know, but I can tell you." "Is that so? Well; you've got me beat, I guess. How can you put me wise?" "I've got a map in my pocket." And the map proved adequate.

THE WRITINGS OF IVAN PANIN. Printed for the Author by The Wilson H. Lee Company, New Haven, Connecticut, \$2.50. This little black-covered book contains 586 pages of close print which represents the author's thoughts during a literary life of forty years. We gather that he has written without communicating these to the criticism of others. His ideals include an indifference to fame and money which most authors cannot reach. He declares that from the point of view of one whose desire is to glorify God, literary work is not worth doing for its own sake. He denounces fiction and the drama as steeped in falsehood, and he regards his own literary labours as mere pastime, which he might have left at any time for more profitable employment. This being so, we do not see why "the world, judging by its own standard, must in time find much here worthy of its attention, even from its own point of view." A writer who has no sense of humour, and an unequal style and no great gift for epigram can hardly expect to repeat old verities and get a wide hearing. A great many of the things that Mr. Panin says have been said before and said better. Aphorism 937 is, "Half of what we hear is seldom so, the other half is not exactly so." This is true, but such truth has become dull. Over 3,000 remarks of this sort will be too much for most people. Mr. Panin has in some ways a fine mind, but he is bitter, we fear, about the lack of literary recognition. Not all the books that succeed are bad. An address on Emerson maintains that "he is perhaps the only American man of letters." This is to us absurd. Mark Twain is much more American than Emerson.

We have received the first numbers of 'THE OXFORD OUTLOOK' (Blackwell, 2s. 6d. monthly), 'COTERIE' (Henderson, 2s. 6d.), and 'HUTCHINSON'S MAGAZINE.' The 'Outlook' contains poems by Mr. John Masefield, Mr. Siegfried Sassoon, and E. S. C., together with a reasonably various set of articles. 'Coterie' is made up of the verse of eleven poets, among whom Mr. T. W. Earp and Mr. R. C. Trevelyan are the most conspicuous, while 'Hutchinson's' leads off with a poem by Mr. Kipling and a new tale by Sir Rider Haggard, in which Allan Quartermain meets She.

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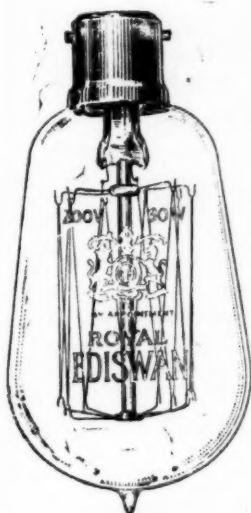
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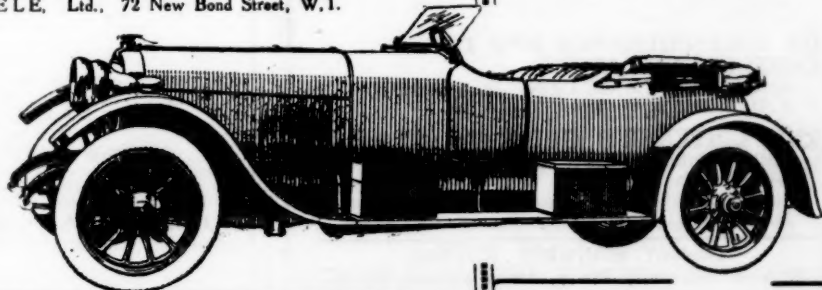
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NEED FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW LOAN—INSTRUCT THE PUBLIC IN REGARD TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROSPECTUS—PREMIER OIL AND PIPE LINE.

For aught that we know to the contrary, the New Loan may be going well; we sincerely hope it is; but there seems to be something seriously lacking in the loan campaign. There are no signs yet of that enthusiasm which makes for success. Three weeks ago we said that the preparations for the loan were badly in arrear, and we fail to discover that any serious progress has been made since. In saying this we are not criticising Mr. Sydney Walton, the director of loan publicity. Mr. Walton is an able organiser and an enthusiast, and he has personality. But one man cannot rouse a country like this to a state of financial enthusiasm in a fortnight.

If we remember rightly, Mr. Walton was called upon to undertake the position of loan organiser on Whit-Sunday or some similarly inappropriate date; he has not yet had time to enlist the services of an efficient staff. Bond selling is a new business to him, and there are few men in the world who understand it. Without criticising him—indeed with every desire to help him—we ask where are the others? It was surely not sufficient for Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Chamberlain and the Governor of the Bank of England to make one speech each at the Guildhall and then wait for the subscriptions to roll in. What are members of Parliament doing? Surely some effort on behalf of the loan might be aroused from Westminster. What are the bankers doing, or the members of the Stock Exchange, or the Baltic and Lloyds? It is not sufficient to subscribe to the loan personally and through one's firm: the great business institutions of the country for their own well being, if for no higher purpose, should endeavour to make the loan a great national success.

Three weeks ago we suggested that a quota should be set for each city or district. The amount could be based on population. Each city would then have an amount to reach or to exceed. This scheme worked excellently in Canada and in the United States. Most cities exceeded their quotas.

In making these recommendations we are not suggesting that the loan has not been a success so far; but we do strongly urge that much more can be done, and what can be done should be done at once. The Treasury hardly appears to have grasped the practical side of the business. It is astonishing to find the columns of the newspapers crammed with prospectuses offering all kinds of shares, mostly of a speculative character, concurrently with the issue of the Government loan. One would have thought it would have been deemed unpatriotic to issue shares in competition with the loan, and yet this week has seen more capital issues than any preceding week since the armistice. Of course, the Government has no power to stop an issue that has been licensed or requires no licence, and who can blame any board of directors for getting on with their own business when the Government itself is indirectly a culprit? The Government is interested in the British Trade Corporation, and that corporation, with Government backing, is making an issue of shares of the Levant Company—a very desirable issue for a most laudable purpose—but one which might have waited until the Government Loan campaign was over. Take another case: the National Bank of New Zealand in February last decided to issue 100,000 shares at £7 10s. each; 50,000 were to be taken by Lloyd's Bank and the balance by the New Zealand bank's shareholders. The Treasury stopped the issue until the Bank Amalgamations Committee had considered it. After three months' delay the Treasury has now given permission for the issue to be made, and the shareholders receive an invitation to buy the shares on July 1st, in the midst of the loan campaign.

Clearly there is a lack of co-ordination in the plans for pushing the loan. Who can blame directors of companies for making issues now, when the Government actually aids and abets such transactions? If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had called a meeting of bankers and intimated to them that all capital issues, except those of the most urgent importance should be postponed until after the loan list had been closed, the bankers would have been morally obliged to discourage most of the issues made in the last fortnight. Possibly the effect of these issues on the success of the loan will be negligible; but how can one impress upon the investor the patriotic necessity of investing in the loan, while at the same time the British Trade Corporation, for example, is urging him to devote money to assisting the development of British trade in the Near East?

We endeavoured to explain last week the attractions of the two forms of loan, but an immense amount of work remains to be done in elucidating the prospectuses. It is almost a pity that there are two forms of bonds, because it adds to the complications. From inquiries received by brokers, bankers and financial editors, it is certain that a campaign of education is required among the general public. The loan prospectuses are necessarily technical, and although their clauses are more or less intelligible to Lombard Street and Throgmorton Street, they are bewildering to Golders Green and Peckham Rye. Many persons are blissfully ignorant of the meaning of "drawings at par," and it is not an easy matter to give a simple explanation to a novice. The prospectuses are inevitably full of difficulties, and there are many possible investors who would rather not subscribe than be obliged to expose their ignorance. Competent lecturers should be sent throughout the country to explain the attractions of the loans and to elucidate the little problems which puzzle the "small investor."

There is room for a campaign of education on the economic aspects of the loan. We believe that larger subscriptions would be brought forward, if the public understood why it is to their advantage that the floating debt be funded, how it is that the funding of the floating debt will tend to lower the cost of living, and, consequently, how a big subscription to the loan will serve a double good purpose to the individual as well as to the nation.

For aught that we know, as we said at the outset, the loan may be selling well; but whatever may be the rate of present subscriptions per day, it is certain that the rate could be doubled, trebled, increased ten-fold if the authorities would get to work with a will. By the authorities we mean everybody who is interested in the success of the loan—the Cabinet, the various political parties, the financial and commercial communities. It is a bigger task than any of the former War Loans. Then there was only one aim before the country—winning the war. Now there are innumerable distractions, although the success of this loan is as important as that of its predecessors.

The Premier Oil and Pipe Line Company, whose properties have apparently been worked regularly during the war and have not been damaged, is to be reconstructed by the formation of a new company with a capital of 5,000,000 shares of 15s. each, or £3,750,000, which will buy the old shares and provide a working capital of £140,000, which will enable operations to be re-started, when the directors obtain control of the wells from the Viennese authorities. The new shares (4,263,555) will be allotted as 14s. paid up, and the remaining 1s. will be paid on application, and is in fact an assessment. The Preference shareholders are to get two new shares for three old ones, and the Ordinary shareholders 1 for 1. It is to be hoped that both classes of shareholders will support the Chairman, Mr. Frederick Walker, in carrying the scheme. Mr. Frederick Walker's experience and ability, and his known integrity, entitle him to the support of the shareholders; apart from the fact that the scheme is a sound and practical one, which ought to make the Premier Oil and Pipe Line shares a good investment.

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MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATIONS

Presiding on the 20th inst., at the meeting of the Marconi International Marine Communications (Ltd.), Mr. Godfrey C. Isaacs (managing director), after apologising for the absence of Senator Marconi, said:—Ladies and gentlemen—Our Chairman, Senator Marconi, having been called by his Government to Italy, on important business, is unable to be present to-day.

The report and balance-sheet are in your hands, and I presume you will approve of my adopting the usual course of taking them as read. I will therefore proceed at once to deal with the figures which have been redeemed.

If you will refer to the balance-sheet, the capital account at the end of the year stood at the same figure as it did at the end of 1917. You are, however, aware that this year the capital has been increased to one million and a half, of which to-day some £1,200,000 has been issued.

The debentures stand at £111,340, as compared with £112,280 in the preceding year, 47 debentures of a par value of £940 having been redeemed.

The reserve account is unchanged, except that there now appears a reserve for obsolescence of plant of £50,000.

No comment is needed upon the creditor balances.

PROFIT SACRIFICED TO PATRIOTISM.

To profit and loss account £105,417 19s. is carried forward from the preceding year, and the balance for last year was £186,341 17s. 1d., making the total £291,759 16s. 1d. The profit for the year shows a slight reduction, but this is due entirely to a considerable expenditure incurred in providing and training a very large number of operators in a very short time.

On the credit side of the accounts it will be seen that plant, apparatus, furniture, and stores shows a substantial increase over the preceding year, which is entirely due to the increased number of installations installed and owned by the company on board ships. Otherwise, I think there is no figure calling for any explanation on the credit side of the account.

In the profit and loss account the gross profits figure at £563,205 7s. 3d., as compared to £470,657 16s. 7d. in the preceding year, an increase of £93,000 in round figures. The net result, however, being less for the reason I have already stated, and which appears in the item of £267,707 15s. 2d. under the heading of Expenses of Ship Telegraph Stations, including loss of plant and apparatus and cost of training operators."

Depreciation, of course, stands at a higher figure in consequence of the continuous increase in the number of installations.

GROWTH OF THE USE OF WIRELESS.

In the appropriation account it will be noted that an interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the capital as it stood at the end of 1918, which absorbed £30,000, and, subject to your approval, the final dividend of 10 per cent. upon the paid-up capital will require in round figures a further sum of £120,000. The balance of £141,759 16s. 1d. will be carried forward, and is subject to Excess Profits Duty for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918, which have not yet been finally adjusted.

As the report informs you, the company's business has continued to increase. The number of stations installed and worked by the company at the end of the year was 2,549, and stands to-day at 2,638. Taking into consideration the large number of ships which have been lost during the war, I think we have every reason to be satisfied with our position. We now look forward to the benefit of our telegraphic receipts, of which, as you are aware, we have been deprived during the last four and a half years. Having regard to the very much larger number of vessels now fitted with wireless telegraph stations, the great increase in coastal stations, and, above all, the greater acquaintance which the world at large has to-day of wireless telegraphy, we have every reason to hope that our telegraph stations on board ships will be more freely used in the future than they were in the past.

SENATOR MARCONI'S LATEST INVENTION.

We think it probable, too, that an additional source of revenue to the company will arise from the more general use on board ships of the direction finder, which has now been so very materially improved that it gives promise of proving of considerable value to navigators. To even a greater extent we think the latest invention of Senator Marconi will be adopted on board ships. This new discovery provides a means whereby a ship in the densest fog may discern the approach of another ship, provided that that ship be also fitted with this apparatus, and at the same time giving an approximate idea of the distance of the approaching ship. We are at present engaged in giving a conical shape to these new installations, and as soon as possible their value on board ship will be demonstrated. We have great hopes that by this means all risk of collision at sea during the thickest fogs will be eliminated, to which end, of course, every ship would have to carry the apparatus, for it stands to reason that if a great liner were fitted and a small tramp were not, the danger of collision, and the loss of one or the other, or both, of the ships might result. Inasmuch as this new device should provide means of disposing of that which is so great a danger in misty and foggy weather, it is not unlikely, we think, that every ship which goes to sea will be eventually fitted with this new installation, and we shall all be spared the harrowing accounts of the terrible losses which from time to time it has been so distressing to read in the daily Press, resulting from some terrible collision at sea.

BRITISH CYANIDES

THE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the British Cyanides Company, Ltd., was held on the 20th inst., at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

Mr. C. F. Rowsell (the chairman of the company), presiding, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before turning to my speech I have to apologise for the absence of Sir Arthur Duckham at this meeting. I may say that he has just attended a somewhat lengthy board meeting of the company, showing the attention he gives to its affairs, which attention has continued throughout the somewhat long period he has devoted to assisting the Government. Personally, I am rather glad to say that I think Sir Arthur will in future be free of Government duties, and will be able, therefore, to give us even more of his time, which is so valuable to the interests of this company. I presume that, as usual, you will take the report and accounts as read, and before dealing with the position of the company I will refer briefly to the accounts. Dealing first with the profit and loss account, the gross profit on trading amounting to £62,720 8s. 6d. this year, as against £67,478 last year; the total to the credit of the profit and loss account, after taking into account transfer fees and interest, amounted to £65,214 10s. 3d., as against £68,868 3s. 3d. last year. Against this you have on the debit side of the account manufacturing and general expenses, £40,992 2s. 2d., as against £28,479 2s. 1d. last year; depreciation, £3,611 12s. 8d., as against £2,959 19s. 1d. last year, leaving a balance of profit for the year, subject to excess profits duty (if any) of £20,572 6s. 9d. as against £36,725 2s. 6d. last year.

I will now refer to the balance-sheet. Leasehold works, buildings, etc., stand at £92,603 19s. 4d., as against £85,830 19s. 2d. last year; new freehold works, buildings, etc., stand at £63,441 12s. 3d., as against £28,423 15s. 5d. last year, showing that we have during the year spent the considerable amount of £36,892 0s. 2d. on new buildings. Our investments in allied companies now amount to £94,692 15s. 5d., as against £79,986 17s. last year, the increase being chiefly in the fact that we have paid up 10s. per share on our holding of British Potash shares and increased our loan to Fred Danks, Ltd., by £5,000. Investments in War Loans and Bonds now stand at £2,638 14s. 3d., as against £36,877 1s. 9d. last year, our War Loan having been realised and the overdraft at our bankers, which stood last year at £39,370 6s. 1d., having been repaid. The next items are practically working capital items—namely, stocks of materials, boats, tank wagons, etc., £57,051 9s. 10d.; book debts, £18,600 4s. 4d.; payments in advance, £1,027 2s. 2d.; cash at bank and in hand, £11,135 2s. 10d., which amount in all to £87,813 19s. 2d. As against this we have sundry creditors amounting to £51,628 3s. 9d., from which you will see that our financial position to-day is thoroughly sound. I may mention in connection with the item of stocks of materials, boats, etc., that this amount appears somewhat large owing to the fact that it includes a large amount—exceeding £10,000—for plant, which in due course will be incorporated in the item of leasehold and freehold works. Turning to the debtor side of the balance-sheet, there has been of course a considerable alteration in our capital account. The authorised capital last year was £200,000, of which 169,471 shares were issued. As you will remember, the shareholders authorised the increase of the capital by the creation of 100,000 Preference shares and a further 50,000 Ordinary shares, and of these 48,328 Preference shares had been issued and are now fully called up and 30,230 Ordinary shares have also been issued and are fully called up. We have therefore in reserve 51,672 Preference shares and 41,890 Ordinary shares. We have increased the reserve account by adding to it the premiums on the shares recently issued—namely, £10,291 1s. 9d.—which gives us a reserve of £22,761 1s. 9d. in all, and we have transferred a small amount from profit carried forward to make this up to £23,000. We intend to continue to increase this item every year from some source or other as we are able. The profit and loss account entry in the balance-sheet shows that we brought forward last year £18,612 17s. 11d. out of which we had to pay for excess profits duty for the year 1917-18 £12,544. Adding to this the profits carried forward for the present account of £20,572 6s. 9d., we have the total profit of £26,641 4s. 8d., out of which has been paid an interim dividend amounting to £9,535 19s. 2d., leaving a total to the credit of profit and loss of £17,105 5s. 6d., as compared with £28,714 5s. 1d. last year, the final balance, after providing for the dividends now being declared, being £5,638 1s.

Reviewing the work of the past year has confirmed me in the view that we have laid the foundations of our industry on thoroughly sound lines, and that we may look forward without fear to meeting competition in any of the special products which we lay ourselves out to manufacture. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

After a brief discussion the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Resolutions were then passed confirming the half-year's dividends already paid on the Preference and Ordinary shares and declaring final dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the Preference shares and at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, both free of income-tax.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA CO.

PROSPECTS OF THE LAND HOLDING—STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

AN ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the South West Africa Company, Ltd., was held on the 25th inst., at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Edmund Davis (chairman of the company) presiding, said: We now present our report and accounts to the 31st December, 1918, and in doing so wish to draw your attention to some of the items appearing in the balance-sheet. The issued capital and unclaimed dividends remain the same as at the 31st December, and sundry creditors and credit balance at £47,853, show an increase of £2,228, the difference being principally due to a further year's subsidy payable to the Otavi Mines and Railway Company, making the total reserve under this heading at the date of the balance-sheet £35,625. Reserve against interest on investments inscribed or deposited and on bankers' balances in Germany received or accrued during the four years to the 31st December, 1918, at £176,207 shows an increase of £43,426. There is no difference in the land sales account at £55,268, the only other item on this side of the balance-sheet being balance of profit and loss, £88,841, to which has been added the balance profit for the year under review, £3,793, making a total of £94,634 to be carried to the next accounts.

Turning to the other side of the balance-sheet we have cash at bankers and in hand, London and South West Africa, £15,251, or a reduction of £28,332 when compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1917, due to increase in our investments during the period under review. Cash at bankers, Berlin, on current and fixed deposit accounts at £474,590 shows no change. Investments at or under cost, inscribed or deposited in London, at £605,114, show a large increase, this figure comparing with £555,114 at the 31st December, 1917, or a difference of £50,000. Investments inscribed or deposited in Germany, at £733,759, show no change. Debtors at £161,584 are increased by £29,255 when compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1917, the difference being due to a reduction of about £15,000 in debtor balances London and South West Africa and an increase of £43,425 by way of interest on investments inscribed in Germany and on fixed deposit with bankers, which has accrued since the 4th August, 1914, the amount in marks being 2,883,614. Unpaid purchase money of farms and town lots sold and advances to settlers, at £27,408, shows a reduction of £2,597 due to instalments of purchase price of farms paid during the period under review. Buildings, South West Africa, at £5,743, show a slight reduction due to depreciation written off, the same remark applying to furniture, plant, farm stock, office furniture, etc. Land survey and water boring, at £8,071, shows a slight reduction, due to accounts recovered in respect of water boring. Shares in other companies, at £27,328, show an increase of £5,000, being the amount of calls paid in respect of our interest in the Otavi Exploring Syndicate, Ltd. Our concessions account, at £66,977, is brought in at the same amount as in the previous balance-sheet. No reference need be made to the profit and loss account, unless it is to the note on the credit side recording the fact that no credit is taken in respect of dividends on investments and interest receivable in Germany, which for the year under review amounted to £43,425, and until we are able to take credit for the revenue from this source our profit and loss account will be very seriously affected. We have set out in the report a list of the investments standing in the balance-sheet at the 31st December, 1918, at £1,338,874, those inscribed or deposited in Germany being the same as at the date of the previous balance sheet, while those represented by British securities and by securities of foreign countries in the company's control stood in the books at £605,114, the market value of these investments at the 31st December, 1918, being about £548,833. The only difference in these investments, when compared with those held at the 31st December, 1917, is the addition of an investment of £50,000 of Five per Cent. National War Bonds. The market value of the investments referred to at the 31st December, 1917, having been £484,000, there is an appreciation—after deduction of the National War Bonds—of about £14,000 on the year. So far as this latter investment is concerned, we have, since the issue of the report, realised the same and subscribed for £62,500 of the new Government Four per Cent. Funding Loan.

At our previous meeting reference was made to the enemy-owned shares and the desire of the Parliamentary Committee which had inquired into our affairs to eliminate this interest as far as possible, and to the steps we had taken up to that date to give effect to the decision referred to. Since our last meeting we have seen various Government Departments on the subject, and on two occasions members of your board discussed the position with Lieut.-General Smuts, but so far we have not obtained permission to negotiate with representatives of the enemy holding. Although we have not obtained this permission, it is interesting to note that we have received a letter from the representative of an association of shareholders in our company, resident in Berlin, asking whether we would entertain the idea of converting "bearer" warrants of the company, which they hold, into registered shares, and what formalities, after the signing of peace, would be necessary to give effect to such an arrangement, were it to meet with our approval. This suggestion, if given consent to, might have a far-reaching effect, and you will, of course, realise that it is a matter not to be dealt with hurriedly; but, in any case, if we reply to the suggestion, the communication will only be sent through an official channel and with Government consent.

Mr. F. Eckstein seconded the motion.

ANTOFAGASTA (CHILE) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Antofagasta (Chile) and Bolivia Railway Company, Ltd., was held on the 24th inst. at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

The Hon. Charles N. Lawrence (chairman of the company) said that, all things considered, he thought the year's results would be received with a considerable measure of satisfaction. The gross receipts from the combined undertakings were £2,370,200, or £130,818 higher than for 1917, which was their previous best year. That satisfactory side of the picture was somewhat marred by working expenses being £230,227 higher, the ratio of expenditure to receipts having been 62.54 per cent. compared with 55.91 per cent. for the previous year. The increased expenditure was very largely the result of the high price of coal and all other materials. Passenger traffic increased steadily in both Chile and Bolivia. Their international service was run without interruptions. Nitrate, 1,076,947 tons, created a fresh record that, on the signing of the Armistice, ceased almost immediately to be purchased. Tin also gave a good account of itself. There was a considerable increase in the output of the company's Chuquibambilla mine. The reason to expect that this would be appreciably augmented, bismuth and wolfram were in less demand in the United States, and consequently their traffics in these minerals were reduced. Turning to import traffics, one of their chief sources of revenue was mining articles, but owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining machinery, &c., both in Europe and the United States, there was a decrease in this traffic. They handled a large tonnage of coal and oil fuel, although the two combined showed a falling off compared with 1917. Generally speaking, the industries served by this railway in both Chile and Bolivia were fully employed, but the company would probably have had somewhat larger traffics if they had been able to secure from markets here and in the States all the imports that were required. The water-works undertaking did very well indeed.

The working expenses were debited with £224,672 as contributions to renewals. Of that amount £69,249 was expended during the year, so that the net credit to the renewal funds was £155,423, bringing these up now to £1,382,358. It was in their opinion sound policy to have raised those funds to such a large figure, all the more essential as replacements would be at a high cost for years to come, but the Board would be quite prepared to reduce the rate of annual contributions in the future if the early development of the business did not require them and if it meant that by their continuance in full they would have a reduced dividend. The funds were large, but not too large. Adding interest on Bolivia Railway bonds, sundry investments, &c., and including the carry-forward from 1917, they had a total of £1,265,508, against which they had appropriated to reserve account £100,000, which made the very satisfactory total of £1,500,000 sterling. They had allocated to the staff benevolent fund a further £25,000, which they hoped should now be able to take care of itself, and they had had to provide for income-tax £145,216. After paying all Debenture charges and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the Cumulative Preference and Preferred stocks, and an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the Deferred Ordinary stock, they recommended a final cash dividend of 7½ per cent. on the Deferred Ordinary stock, making 10 per cent. in cash for the past year, less income-tax, and a bonus of 2 per cent. in fully-paid Deferred Ordinary Stock, without deduction of income-tax, with a similar bonus to the Preferred Ordinary stockholders. These payments would absorb £237,600, and would leave £293,015 to carry forward. Capital expenditure was kept down last year to the lowest possible minimum, both on account of the high cost of everything and because of the difficulty of obtaining materials. The policy has been that no new work should be undertaken except what was absolutely necessary. The balance-sheet was a particularly clean one, and showed that the company was in a sound position, but they could not expect yet awhile to arrange the account, which was considerably over-spent. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Robert Harvey seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and the usual formal business was transacted.

Resolutions were unanimously passed increasing the capital to £6,160,000 by the creation of 81,600 Deferred Ordinary shares, to be converted into stock, and authorising the capitalisation of £81,600 of undivided profits as Deferred shares to be distributed as to £40,000 among the Preferred Ordinary stockholders, and as to £41,600 among the Deferred Ordinary stockholders. Consent to these measures was given at class meetings of the Preferred and Deferred holders.

NORTH KENT COALFIELD CO.

INTERESTING FACTS FOR THE COAL CONSUMER—

SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENT OF CHISLET

COLLIERY.

THE EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of this Company was held at Pinners Hall, Austin Friars, E.C., last week. Mr. Arthur Woolley-Hart (chairman of the company) presided.

Mr. F. W. Ellis (secretary) read the notice calling the meeting and the report of the Auditors.

NORTH KENT COALFIELD.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Gentlemen, in the first place, during the year it will be noticed that the share capital has been increased from £62,000 to £78,000, the increase being the issue of 16,000 ordinary shares. This is owing to the fact that the firm who advanced us money some time ago to assist us in meeting our current liabilities, had the option of being repaid in cash or shares, and they exercised that option in shares—hence the alteration in the capital. That has brought about the change on the other side that instead of having a heavy indebtedness we have a bank balance of £9,212 10s. 7d., as compared with £490 13s. 4d. in the preceding year. The only other item that I know of in the balance sheet worthy of comment is that the investment at cost in respect of the Chislet Colliery shares stands at £42,300, being that number of shares valued at par. On the question of the liabilities, so far as the creditors are concerned, with the exception of two small sums amounting in total to less than £40, they were now all square, and as regards the debtors, £690 1s. 8d. have also been cleared off, so that there is nothing outstanding. With regard to the state of affairs generally during the year, we have sold a certain amount of the freeholds of our surface. There has been no desire on our part, at any time, to become farmers, as we did not wish the trouble and anxiety. There is still one property left which we hope to dispose of during the next two months. I may say with regard to the property sold that it realised very good prices, and the remaining property will only be sold, as is the case with the parts already sold, subject to the mining leases being retained. We shall not part with any mineral rights or interests we have in the minerals. Just recently we have also had to purchase two cottages in connection with the remaining property. It is a very good farm, but it was handicapped by want of cottages, and if we sell that land we propose to sell the cottages with the area.

CHISLET COLLIERY SHARES.

You will perhaps like to know what this company has done in regard to the rights and interests it had in respect of the recent issue of Chislet Colliery shares. We had directly and indirectly the right to apply, and, I may add, we have applied for 30,000 shares in that company. We have also made our financial arrangements without having to borrow any money, so that we shall be enabled to meet all our liabilities, including the calls on the shares as they become due. I think that tells you practically the only points of any importance that have taken place domestically during the last 12 months under review, and during the five and a half months that have since expired. It may possibly be desirable that shareholders should know something with regard to the position of the company in respect to royalties, super royalties or otherwise. It must be known to everybody that a coal commission has been sitting and is expected to issue its second report at the end of this week. What it is going to report, how many reports there will be, or what will be the outcome as regards Parliamentary action, time alone can tell. I think it would be quite futile for anybody to hazard an opinion. All I can say is that so far as this company is concerned I have been very actively engaged on one side, and Mr. Shaw has been very actively engaged on another side, in respect to assisting to protect the company's interest. We were able, in conjunction with those interested in boring and development in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, and others interested in developing Kent, to arrange so that the Coal Commission should give us an opportunity to put two or three witnesses forward. I, among others, tendered a proof of evidence which was afterwards referred to.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS AT CHISLET.

As regards Chislet Colliery, I do not think Mr. Shaw, who is chairman of that company, will mind my saying that the prospect at the moment (I think I may say the proved prospects) are in every sense up to the fullest expectations we have ever had, and our belief is that, if left alone and not interfered with unduly by the Government in any direction, there is nothing to prevent the Chislet Colliery from being as good an undertaking as any in the country. The seam we are at present working is a good seam, not too deep, of fair thickness and good quality and a good roof. During the Commission we have heard a great deal about the owners being very behind the times and objecting to spend money in putting up new machinery, particularly for underground development, and so forth. As regards the colliery, it is being developed at a most rapid rate,

and we hope and expect that well within 12 months from now to have an output of 1,000 tons per shift, and we trust we shall have two shifts per day. The whole of the Directors' energies are being bent in that direction, and under any ordinary circumstances that result should be obtained. I wish particularly to mention to this meeting that our interest in Chislet Colliery now amounts to 90,000 shares. It therefore can be seen that the colliery, in getting into the profit-earning stage, will have a very material bearing on the welfare of this company. It may perhaps also be of some interest to the shareholders to know what is the true explanation of the very huge diminution of the coal output of the United Kingdom. Many reasons have been given or suggestions made in respect to it, but I am in a position to give you the actual figures of one fairly large colliery with which I am connected, with regard to absenteeism and the falling off of the work done by colliers and the workmen in general. I happen to have been interested in a colliery in the North for many years and am still actively associated with the management and control of it.

WHY THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF COAL.

I find that in March, 1906, the colliers (please note that does not include all the workmen) got 3.60 tons per day, i.e., per shift; in March, 1914, that had been reduced to 2.95 tons per day, and in March, 1919, the output was further reduced to 2.60 tons per day. I have not the exact figures for June, but they are again considerably less. We will now include the underground men at the same colliery. In March, 1906, the output was 2.11 tons per man underground, in March, 1914, the figure was 1.72 tons, and in March, 1919, 1.34 tons. Now we will take the total of all the men at work at the colliery underground and above ground—in fact all but the clerical staff. In March, 1906, the output was 1.62 tons, or rather over 1½ tons per man employed. In March, 1914, it was 1.23 tons, and in March, 1919, .95 tons, and it is now again lower, but I have not the latest figure before me. You will see what an immense falling off there has been in the output per man. A day or two ago Sir Richard Redmayne and the miners' representative said this diminution was caused very largely by the want of waggons and tubs underground, and so forth. That may be true to a limited extent in certain collieries, but it does not apply generally. To show that that is so far from being the real reason I will give some other figures. At the colliery I have referred to, in March, 1914, the number of colliers absent during the month was 18.43 per cent., and in March, 1919, the colliers absent were 22.91 per cent. In olden days the colliers were principally absent, and the other men were more regular in attendance, but now that wages are so high, the other men are following the example of the colliers, for I find that of the other underground men in March, 1914, the absenteeism was 9.94, but in March, 1919, it had risen to 16.05. As regards the surface men in March, 1914, it was 9.96, whereas in March, 1919, it was 16.64. In all cases these figures have been taken out on the same basis, so that you can clearly see that absenteeism is greater than it used to be. Therefore it is idle to say that the want of tubs or waggons has anything to do with absenteeism in this case and probably but little to do with it in many other instances.

WHY COAL IS DEAR.

There has also been a great deal of complaint about the price of coal. It may be of some interest to you to know that going back for 14 years, the wages cost, at the colliery I am referring to, was 3s. 7d. per ton, seven years ago the wages cost was 5s. 9d. per ton, and now 17s. 9d. per ton. I think it may be said that the collier, between 3s. 7d. and 17s. 9d., has had at least his fair share of the increased price. With a wage cost such as this, you can realise that coal cannot possibly be cheap. In addition there are other charges, such as the high cost of materials and the coal supplied to the workmen themselves. There is one item which I omitted, and which may be of interest. Going back to the years 1912-1913 I find a little over 13,000 shifts were worked for an output of 17,000 to 18,000 tons of coal per week, yet recently, with over 14,000 shifts, I have only been able to get approximately 13,000 tons. I think those figures should be fairly conclusive of what is taking place, and should be seriously considered by everyone, whether a shareholder or a consumer.

The Secretary has called my attention to what he thought I said just now when I was referring to the number of shares taken up in the Chislet Colliery, viz., that we would make all the payments out of the money already shown in hand in the balance sheet of last year, but what I intended to say was that we had made further arrangements to enable us to pay this sum, which latter is the case.

Mr. Joseph Shaw, K.C. (Director), seconded the motion, which, after a few questions had been answered, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The retiring Director, Mr. A. Woolley-Hart, and the Auditors, Messrs. Armstrong, Harrison, Swan & Co., were unanimously re-appointed.

Mr. E. Fairweather proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman for his lucid speech. He was sure that this would be the wish of the shareholders.

Mr. Lowry seconded the motion.

The Chairman briefly replied, and the meeting closed.

ELDER DEMPSTER & COMPANY

WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

THE SHIPPING OUTLOOK.

THE NINTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd., was held 24th inst., at 23, Billiter Street, E.C., Sir Owen Phillips, G.C.M.G., M.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Picton H. Jones) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Since last we met the world situation has undergone a stupendous and far-reaching change. The out-look is altogether different from what it was then. We have to readjust ourselves to an entirely new state of affairs, and, as shipowners, are faced with a fresh set of problems and difficulties. The financial position of the company, looking to the abnormal conditions under which we have been working, I think you will consider satisfactory. Our ordinary, preference and debenture capital and reserves now amount to over six and a-quarter millions sterling, which gives some idea of the extent and scope of the company's operations. Throughout its long association with West Africa, our company has always taken a keen interest in all developments affecting the advancement of trade and commerce in that country. We are naturally particularly interested in the provision of suitable harbours and wharves at the ports on the West African Coast in order that the steamers may be expeditiously handled and our services thereby improved and speeded up. In this connection I may mention that some months ago we made an offer, through the Imperial Government, to erect suitable deep-water wharves, at our own cost, with up-to-date facilities, at certain of the principal West African ports. We expressed our willingness, if this suggestion was accepted, that the Colonial Governments concerned should have the right to acquire them at cost price, less depreciation, five years after completion, should they so desire. This offer, I understand, is now under consideration by the Colonial Governments. I am glad that the scheme for harbour development at Apapa has made good progress, and that we are likely to see a commencement made at no distant date with the construction of a modern port. Since last we assembled Sir Frederick Lugard has resigned the Governorship of Nigeria, and Sir Hugh Clifford has been appointed the new Governor. Sir Frederick's good work in Nigeria is too well known to need comment from me, but, as regards development, he was handicapped in the last years of his administration by war conditions. I am confident that under Sir Hugh Clifford—whose ripe experience, proved administrative skill and progressive spirit have already earned for him a very high reputation—a period of prosperous development awaits Nigeria.

IMPORTANCE OF COAL SUPPLIES.

Steamship companies are among the largest consumers of coal, and therefore British shipowners are intensely interested in the discussions for and against the nationalisation of coal mines which have been taking place at the sittings of the Coal Commission and in the Press. There is one point on which practically everyone will agree—namely, that it is absolutely essential to the well-being not only of British shipping, but of every man and woman engaged in the production of commodities of all kinds, that the coal stored beneath the surface of Great Britain should be produced for sale at the lowest possible price compatible with a fair wage to the coal-winner. In Great Britain we have had our coal produced by private enterprise, and although there are various matters, such as housing and similar questions, which leave room for improvement, the pre-war system of placing coal on the market at a fair price, yet paying a reasonable wage to the workmen, could not, in my view, be much improved upon, with due regard to the interests of the British workmen employed in other industries. A valuable coalfield was discovered in West Africa some years ago, and the Nigerian Government, with commendable enterprise, have developed, in the course of five war years, one colliery. In the course of, say, ten years, under Government management, it is probable that they may make two or even three collieries, and no doubt if they do so they will be proclaimed as an example of Government enterprise, and as an argument in favour of nationalisation. I would like to point out, however, that if the Government of Nigeria had been willing, in addition to opening a colliery themselves, to lease a reasonable area of coal-bearing land to a number of different coal companies with a view to securing the maximum development, there is no doubt that, instead of having one colliery, doubtless excellently worked, estimated to produce something under a quarter of a million tons this year, we should shortly have had at least three or four coal mines yielding coal in large quantities.

WEST AFRICAN TRADE.

During the year under review the West African trade remained under Government control. Hardships were experienced under the priority system, more particularly by the cocoa growers and exporters, but the position in this respect has now improved considerably, owing to the relaxation of the import regulations. On the whole it cannot be said that the West African trade has suffered heavily during the war in comparison with other trades, because the products of these vast tropical territories were in such

great demand for war purposes. One result of the war is that the importance of these tropical products is now realised in this country. During the war they were essential for the production of glycerine, the manufacture of margarine and other edible fats, and the preparation of valuable cattle foods. Great industries depend upon these products, and I trust that they have become so fully established in this country that these raw materials of industry will not again have to seek their market in Germany or any other foreign country. Products of these British Colonies should, in my opinion, for the future find their principal market and distributing centre in Great Britain. It is very important, however, that greater attention should be devoted to the growth on scientific lines of tropical products, and that greater care should be devoted to the preparation of the produce for the market, in order to compete with those countries which take a great deal of trouble to secure the highest possible standard of quality. Most people who have the welfare of the West African Colonies at heart welcome the new regulations which have been introduced restricting the import of spirits into British West Africa, and I hope the co-operation of France will be obtained in this matter so that similar restrictions may apply to both British and French West African Colonies. In the development of West Africa I look forward to France and Great Britain working together in the future hand in hand, and trust that traders may be enabled to carry on their business on equal terms in both French and British Colonies.

THE COMPANY'S SERVICES.

Our steamers have remained under requisition to the Government, but are now being gradually released to us. We are consequently looking forward to resuming our services, which had to be either curtailed or suspended during the war. Trade between America and West Africa, owing to the restrictions which war conditions imposed upon the trade between the United Kingdom and West Africa, expanded during the war. We are fully supplying the requirements of this trade with tonnage to meet present needs and future developments. As you are aware, we acquired some years ago an extended interest in the trade between the United Kingdom, Galveston and New Orleans. During the war this service has been maintained so far as abnormal circumstances permitted. As soon as our tonnage is restored to us by the Government, we intend to make provision for carrying on and developing our regular services in this important trade. Our company is largely interested in the Glen Line, trading to Far Eastern ports, and in this way we are associated with the Far Eastern trade. The business of the Glen Line is a growing one, and its trade between Great Britain, Mediterranean ports and the Far East shows signs of healthy expansion. The Canary Islands have suffered heavily during the war, owing to the necessity of suspending steamer services, but calls are now gradually being resumed. We suffered very heavily by the loss of steamers during the war. Indeed, the importance of the produce of West Africa was realised to such an extent by our enemies that they appear to have concentrated their submarine activity largely upon our incoming ships. We have, however, taken steps to replace lost tonnage, and to provide for future expansion. A large number of steamers are building for our account, while a number of others have been ordered and will be commenced promptly. For the greater part of the period under review hostilities were still going on, and once again I cannot refrain from expressing the admiration and appreciation of us all at the wonderful efficiency and energy displayed by the British Navy in dealing with the deadly submarine menace and in safeguarding our merchant ships from this insidious form of warfare. We have also reason to be proud of the way in which the officers and men of the mercantile marine performed their duties unflinchingly throughout those perilous days. I desire once more to express to the Liverpool Board and to the members of our staffs at home, abroad and afloat, our appreciation of their loyalty, devotion and zeal in the performance of their duties during the arduous and trying times through which we have passed. We are again making a special donation of £10,000 to the Elder Dempster Superannuation Fund Association in addition to the regular contributions made by the company to the fund.

PROSPECTS OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

The future as regards West Africa presents fair prospects, but from the shipping point of view the trade is difficult and complex, owing to the peculiar climatic conditions, and to the fact that our services embrace connections with not less than 100 widely separated and, mostly, ill-equipped ports. The shipping trade has to face a very difficult problem, as the existing world-shortage of vessels should, at the present rate of production of new steamers, be more than made good within a comparatively short period. On the other hand, it is very doubtful whether, in the interval, the earnings of steamers built at present high prices will permit the necessary sums to be set aside to cover the heavy depreciation in the value of vessels which will have to be faced as soon as the shortage in shipping is made good. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the declaration of the dividends recommended, including a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year.

The Right Hon. Lord Pirrie, K.P., P.C., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the allocation of £10,000 to the superannuation fund association was approved.

